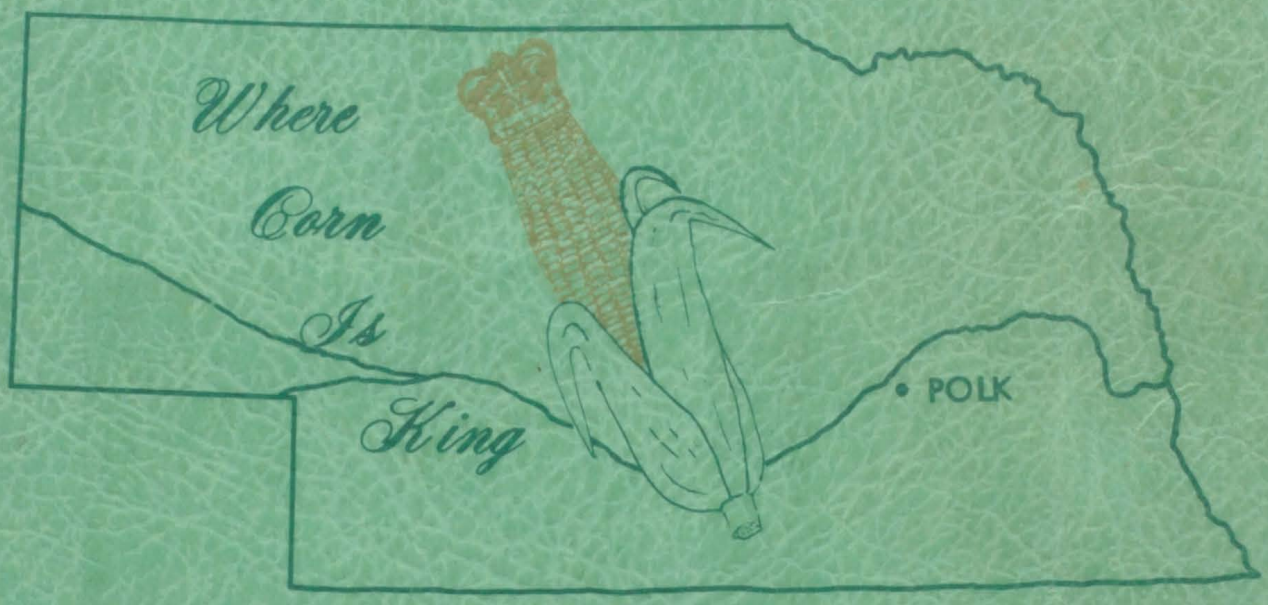
POLK MEMOIRS



POLK, NEBRASKA

1874—1974

POLK MEMOIRS

A Healthy, Worthy and Wise Small Town

We write this book so the Youth of Today will care for Polk's tomorrows by receiving the Heritage of yesterday.

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

to the pioneers who first came to Pleasant Home Precinct area of Polk County, and nearby York and Hamilton Counties, and who stayed and helped build Polk, and to those "dear descendents and deserving people" who remained to help it grow.

We hope by the data within you will receive a bird's eye view of our village of 410 population; it's heritage, it's culture, it's people — past and present.

We trust you will chuckle over moments of nostalgic memory, visualize our joys, our sorrows; and ascertain why some folks have become fifth generation Polkites.

It has taken much work, with some folks differing as to data about bygone events, but we trust all in all, it is as accurate as word of mouth and printed knowledge can portray.

Compiled by

Sisters — Mrs. Dwight Burney, Polk
Mrs. Irvin Anderson, Stromsburg

Assisted by Mrs. Lloyd Widga, Mrs. Alvena Lind, Mrs. Blanche Sundberg, Mrs. Donald Hanquist and Mrs. Glenn Hill. We acknowledge and appreciate Norris Alfred of Polk Progress allowing us to use data and pictures, also recognition is given other weekly or state papers for information and news items used.

Thanks to ALL Polk folks who furnished information.

This poem typifies what we think of Polk.

Life is made sweet because of friends we have made,
And the things which in common we share,
We want to live on, not because of ourselves,
But because of the people who care,
It's in giving and doing for somebody else,
On that, all life's splendors depend,
And the joys of this life, when you've summed it all up,
Are found among our many Polk friends.

Table of Contents

Early Day Memories — Present Day Realities — Future Day Aspirations and Hopes

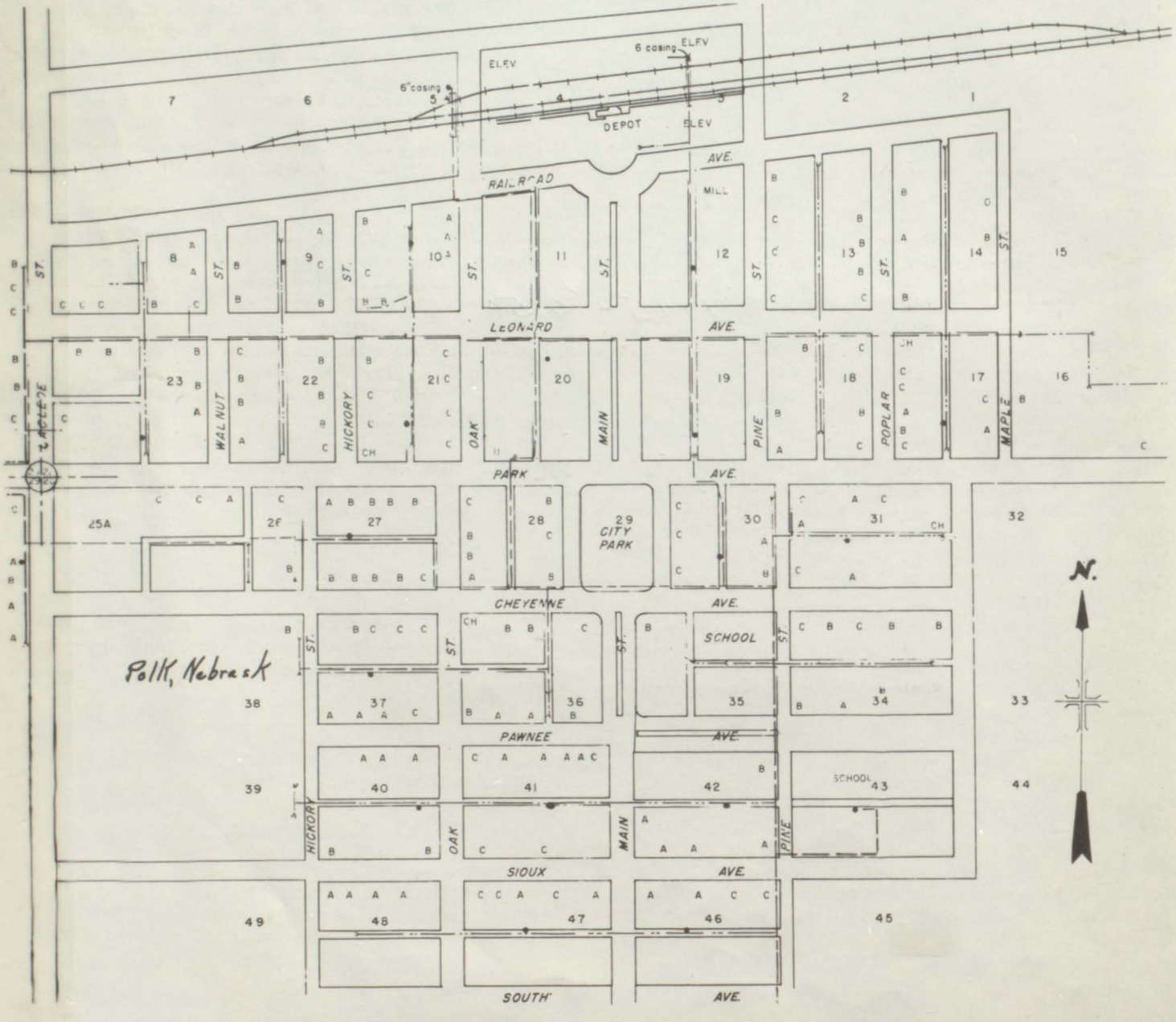
'HISTORY IS MADE UP OF EVENTS,–PEOPLE,–TIME,–PLACE,–& OUTLOOK

I. PRESENT DAY POLK

- A. Mayor, Facts About Polk
- B. Why I Like Polk
- C. Present Businesses and Organizations
- D. Churches of Polk and Area
- E. Schools of Polk
- F. Data About Polk Folks
  1. Did You Know
  2. Salutes
  3. Personality Sketches
- G. Golden Years - 50 or More Together
- H. Family Album Section

II. POLK'S YESTERDAYS

- A. History of Polk
- B. As I Remember Polk
- C. Polk's Bean Day
- D. Pictures
- E. Newspaper Stories About Polk People
- F. Cemeteries — Tragedies — Service Roll
- G. Potpourri — "Early Days"



Present Day Polk

Message from the Mayor

Mayor and Mrs. Dean Myers extend a greeting to each and every Polk and area resident, and a welcome to any newcomer who visits our town. Dean likes Polk and invites you to read the "I Like Polk" articles submitted by townspeople. He and his wife Fern are active in various Polk church and community activities.

Polk, Nebraska, 1974

Polk, population 410, is situated on Highway 66 which connects our town on the west to Hordville and to High- was 34 enroute to Central City to the East - 10 miles is Highway 81 which connects south to York, north to Stromsburg.

Polk is in the southwest corner of Polk County. The town is within a few miles of Hamilton County on the west, York County on the south.

Our town is one of the newest in Nebraska, 68 years of age, 2 miles paved streets, 4 churches, 2 schools, 32 businesses, a block city park, with playground equipment and picnic tables.

Our bids to fame may be few, Evelyn Lincoln, secretary to the late President Kennedy graduated from school here in 1922, James Wilson, whose father was one of the organizers of the town lives here, operating the Wilson feed Farms farm, Dwight Burney, Nebraska's 30th governor lives here. In love and respect for his fellowman, each person of Polk is a V.I.P. (Very Important Person).

For 15 years Bean Days were celebrated bringing relatives and friends from near and far.

Polk's Jo Ella Stromberg was Nebraska Easter Seal Child in 1969. Dick Sealey, Jr. is known all over Nebraska to those who love sports. He is an umpire of football, basketball and track.

Fourteen persons have been recognized and received the Nebraska Good Neighbor Awards. Fourteen persons have Admiral in the Navy Awards for outstanding deeds. Friendly, clean, prosperous and industrious, there are approximately 175 homes in the town, about 15 of which have been built the past 15 years. Winning state athletic tournaments has put us on the map.

We live in a healthy part of the U.S.A. According to a Reader's Digest article of 2 years ago, our area is included in the 17 counties of Nebraska which were reputed to be the healthiest places in the U.S.A.

Our townspeople are mixtures of various nationalities, with Swedish and Germans predominating.

The average age of the persons residing within the town of Polk would probably be 60 years or over, but within a few miles, children and grandchildren come to visit and "spark" the fun events.

Our newest building renovations are the Citizens State Bank, which has drive-up facilities and the American Legion rooms where senior citizens meet the first Wednesday of the month to play Bingo, courtesy of a benevolent organization of the community. In June 1974. the Sportsman's Bar took on a new front look.

We do not have bus or train facilities but neighbor helps neighbor in journeying to larger towns for purchases not available in Polk.

Many of the people are related, in fact when a state paper asked a Polk person to gather data about 5 persons over 65 who had no relatives within 5 miles, it was not an easy thing to do.

Of the approximately 175 houses within Polk, about 70 have only one occupant. Polk has over 50 widows, 13 bachelors and 8 widowers.

We probably are not unique, but we like our quiet town, where very little vandalism occurs, where it isn't what you see, or where you go, but who you help and what fun you have which makes for friendly living.

Independent, but cooperative, resourceful, energetic, of pioneer "stock" Polk folks have grown "tall" in work patterns of industrious living.

Come See Us! If you are a coffee-drinker, join the Swedes and Germans and the "others" as they visit of their fellowman in one of Polk's three fine cafes.

Yesterday is always with us, so we can make the most of Today. A firm faith, a living philosophy and an undying hope are qualities which contribute to character building.

Life is a heritage handed down from one generation to another, each giving a bit of beauty, a bit of courage and much faith.

Each of us are climbing a hill, perhaps holding a lantern of hope in our hand. Each of us know rigors of working, heartaches of everyday living, yet endeavor to soften these days with humor and laughter.

Why I Like Polk

Anonymous Articles by Polk People

Why I Like Polk

Every town has personality. We believe Polk's predominant sparkle is from it's frugal, conservative, independent, friendly people.

Stifle the voice of the pioneers and the land shall become deaf said poet William Andress. Life is like building a structure, only a few architects are needed, but a lot of laborers must work together.

We may not build bigger, but I hope better! The air is clean, our townspeople are busy, we have few major problems. Let's Glow and Grow in appreciation.

Why I Like Polk

Why is Polk any different from other towns of less than 500 population?

I think it is, because, first it's my home town. Second, it was well planned by the Wilsons, who laid it out. I like the bandstand on center boulevard. Pretty shrubbery, green grass greets one as we park our cars. It's one of the prettier towns of Nebraska.

For the most part, the town is clean. Most folks keep neat lawns. Sometimes the back yards are prettier than the front yards (grass in front-flowers in rear), but it's fun to have a barbecue or visit on the "back side."

Polk is "up and coming," adequate facilities, churches, school and civic functions. And except for bus transportation for those who have disposed of their cars, most basic needs can be met among Polk's 32 business places.

It's close to the University of Nebraska football games (it is said one out every 10 Nebraskans has a season ticket). I doubt if this is true in Polk, but we do have 25 to 50 enthusiasts, who if they can't go, pass their ticket to someone else. Roads are generally passable.

We haven't known, as yet, any gasoline shortage or heating problems.

As of summer of 1974, we are, as the expression says, "Sittin' Pretty."

Why I Like Polk

Healthwise, Polk is included in the 11 county area where folks live longer than any place in the U.S.A. Reasons suggested, according to a Journalism Depth Report by the University of Nebraska are: visiting with neighbors, the variety of Nebraska's seasons, avoidance of cigarettes and alcohol, hard work and fishing. Or it may be the pure air and water, the lack of tension, exercise and home grown food. Over the past century, the 65 and over population in Nebraska has grown from 1% to 12%. Only Florida outranks Nebraska in percentage of elderly. Finances and the need to remain near relatives and familiar medical facilities keep elderly immobile.

Retirement at Polk is more than a gold watch and a rocking chair. The village is small enough that men or women may walk downtown to get the mail, visit friends, feel "togetherness, not loneliness."

There's independence, there's carefreeness, there's respect for the aged.

As in most small towns, many of the folks are relatives, best of all, most are friends.

Why I Like Polk

Within our town lives many "bed-rock Americans," believers in work, thrifty, conservative and religious folk with the pioneer spirit still strong

Perhaps the unpredictable weather has helped mold our townsfolk into such an independent, hardy breed.

Farming remains an arduous, worrisome way to make a living, butwhen you farm, as one person said, you feel good out in the fresh air, close to nature, to God. You think, too, I'm helping feed 50 other folks.

I like to plant a tree, perhaps a walnut one that 50 years from now someone dear will make into a chair, shade trees to shelter grandchildren, fruit trees that will be here after I'm gone.

In a small town like Polk we are not in a highly "mobile" society, we tend to "stay put," with close family ties. Even those relatives who have moved away have fond memories of the home-made ice cream socials, the friendly summer baseball games, the Bean Day with beans cooked in the kettles and eaten with friends or a relative "in the park."

In Polk, I'll wager, if you sat on a bench and said "Hi" to everyone who came by, you'd know 60-75% of them and 90% of all you spoke to would smile and answer.

Polk has seen some changes, but the independent, but cooperative people of Polk remain little changed. They carry their heritage with them.

For everyone who hails from Polk, it is a town "to come back to," it's home.

What I Think of Polk!

I can truthfully put in to a few choice words what I think of Polk. That is to say it is a "great little town." I say this because I have always found the people to be very friendly. When I moved to Polk in 1941 people were anxious to become acquainted. I was invited to join various organizations and I was invited to many activities. In case of sickness or trouble many neighbors and friends are there to help in any way they can. They are generous in every possible way. You need never feel alone or neglected. It is a town full of honest people which you know you can trust. People are unselfish and look out for each other. I can truthfully say I am proud to be a part of the Polk Community.

Besides the fact that the people in Polk are the finest, also must add that it has always been a clean and neat town. People take pride in keeping their places neat and in good condition.

There are several fine churches people can attend and a fine school system. I think we are fortunate to have a staff of doctors who work in a well equipped clinic certain days in the week as many small towns lack this service.

My Home Town

My home town to me is special, I know each person in each business place personally, I know most everyone I may meet on the street.

My town gives me protection, trade, friends, education, churches, and the right to free moral citizenship.

A town to be beautiful, reflects it's people. It must

be able to serve them. It must be hospitable, considerate, and generous with civic "free" duties.

A lovely city should inspire its citizens to do constructive things, to be good neighbors.

A charming city helps free people grow in strength, intellectual and cultural vigor, where a man can stand with dignity and feel he can live, prosper and be happy.

My town is Polk. I love it.

My Home Town is Polk

I find beauty in symbolic things, the ability to clearly view the morning sunrise; see the setting sun, and to hear tractors in the fields, telling us that the fields will soon be green and fertile, to see the windowshade open at my neighbors telling me my aged friend is fine.

To hear my neighbor singing in his garden, to see the early morning deer tracks of a sprinting doe, to hear the "putt-putt" assurance that the across the road friend has safely started his morning work. Even the lawn mowers hum assures me there is no illness at my neighbor's house. The robin sings, So do I.

I drive downtown, have easy access parking, chat with the friendly postmaster, or others getting their mail, regarding any "new" news, a birth, a death, someone moving or an accident. Shopping is more than buying food or supplies, it's visiting with the man who weighs, makes change and smiles. There is richness not of gold for living in a small town like Polk.

I like Polk because of the Bingo parties each month when Senior Citizens meet for fun and fellowship.

Polk - My Home Town

My town is where I was educated, where I grew up. I know the history of its churches, its buildings and of its people.

I've watched it grow and glow! I've seen it rise and also have known its disappointments.

I've lived here almost 3 score ten years. It is a town well laid out, lovely to see, two miles of paved street, 7 churches in Polk area, fine school facilities, but best, and most important of all, honest, helpful intelligent citizens ready to do a Good Neighbor Deed, ready to help a stranger or friend.

Why I Like Polk

Life at Polk has been good to me. I'm a "Sunset" citizen. I could build a new home, I could live in a city in a high rise apartment, but I prefer living at Polk.

Why? Because I'm in familiar surroundings, I know "my way," where to go, and where not to go, when to go and when not to.

I know my neighbor cares, and although I live alone and have no close relatives, I prefer to live out my years where I know and am known.

Polk - My Home Town

My home is here, my children and grandchildren live here. I have a business here.

I cast my vote here. I give my civic loyalty to my town.

My town needs intelligent thinking, not attitudes of indifference. It provides me with protection, trade, friends, education, schools, churches and the freedom of citizenship. No major violence has occurred in Polk.

I support my town and it supports me.

What Has Polk Got That Makes it Distinctive

It has two miles of paved streets, well laid out; a boulevard on main street.

Gas for my car, food for my body, church life for my soul, school for my children, a bank for business, a library for mental stimulation, doctors for physical health and even "coffee Klatch" or birthday party for laughing sociability. It has roads that lead me out of town, but best of all return me home to familiar surroundings, to those who watch and wait, and care.

Polk - My Home Town

"A friend is a person who will go out of his way to help someone who can't possibly do him any good."

Friendship in Polk is synonomous with this definition. Our village is small. My daughter, when traveling abroad, when asked of her home town said, "It's a 'Poke and Plum' town, a place so small that if you were driving through and poked your head out the window, you'd be plumb through town by the time you rolled up the window."

Yes, it's a town so small that if you come downtown with a black eye, you don't need to ask "how come," you know.

The inanimate buildings are only a minor part of Polk. The people, the memories, the experiences shared, a wave from the front porch, a helping hand to start the car, a knock at the door with a plate of fresh cookies or a share of the first "fruits" of the garden or a few flowers, all make up Polk.

One look at our tree shaded two blocks of main streets, might make you think we are a sleepy little town, but we are wide awake and glowing.

The mystery of our own minds and memories make Polk <u>special.</u>

Why I Like Polk = My Home

There's no place more delightful than home. Home, where one likes things to be restful, congenial, comfortable, and familiar.

You can build a house, but a home is something that grows and glows in your heart through the years. Home is where one lives out his life in comfort and security. All of us need an anchor, a place where we can repair our wounds and renew our strength and a place familiar and reassuring. My home is at Polk.

My Town - Polk

Life's Highway by Gordon Martin

I look at a scrapbook with clippings and such. . . . and I marvel at how they can keep you in touch. . . with the names and the faces of days in the past. . .making sure that some lovely old memories last. There are stories and pictures now priceless in worth. . .all reflecting the joy of a wedding or birth. . .or the faith and devotion of loved one now gone. . .which a new generation is carrying on. It's the kind of a record which always will be. . .of tremendous importance for young-

sters to see. . .with it's history lessons and old-fashioned ways. . .which will not be forgotten as long as it stays. So I'll no longer joke about things that we save
. . .for I know that our scrapbook a highway will pave
. . .from the years of the past to the future so bright
. . .and will ever be shedding it's warmth and it's light.

Little Town

I like to live in a little town, where the trees meet across the street,
Where you wave your hand and say "hello"
to everyone you meet.
I like to stand for a moment
outside the grocery store
And listen to the friendly gossip of the folks
that live next door.
For life is interwoven with the friends
we learn to know;
And we hear their joys and sorrow
as we daily come and go.
So I like to live in a little town,
I care no more to roam.
For every house in a little town is more than a house; it's home.

Slogan Contest

Polk in 1969 had a Slogan Contest

Polk residents, in 1969 were asked to send in a slogan for Polk. Here are a number of them, which tells what Polk present and former residents think of their home town.

Max Peterson of Dayton, Ohio:
Where Life's Worth Living - The healthiest spot in America (pg. 241, Oct. '69 Readers Digest)
City of Friends With Miles of Smiles
A City You Can Bank On
City of Great Heritage and Future

William Nelson while on Duty in Germany: Polk's a Smile on the Map; Polk's the Meeting Place of Friendly Folk; Smile a While, Meet the Folk in Polk.

Mrs. Lawrence Heiden of Wellington, Colorado sent these: Polk, Nebraska - Garden of SW Eden; Potpourri of Nebraska; Farmer Town, U.S.A.

Jo Ella Stromberg: Corny, But Friendly, That's Polk.

Mark Wood: Polk, The Center of Nebraska; Corn Capital of Nebraska; The Farm Capital of Nebraska.

Bobby Kisler: The Land of the Bridal Wreath.

Tonya Anderson: The Navel of Nebraska

Steve Warnick: World's Largest Bean Day Capitol

Gale Stevens: Where Friendship Abounds; Little Size, Big Otherwise; The Native Grassland Capitol.

Ed Recknor: Polk and Bean Center

Anna Guthrie: Our Town Where Friendliness Abounds

Wilda Holmes: Promote Progress for Polk

Alvin Dahlin: Polk, the Town of Hospitality

Mrs. Alvin Dahlin: Polk, Progressive People

Mrs. Irene Widga: Polk, the Bountiful Harvest Center, Flowering Center on 66.

Mrs. Con Lindholm: Friendship Center of Nebraska; Town of Progress; Town of the Coffee Cup,

Mrs. Irvin Anderson: The Fair and Square Town; The Heart of the Cornland; Best Town for Miles Around.

Natalie Hahn: Little Town, Big Heart; Where Corn is King; Where People Love and Live; Where Your Pleasure is our Happiness.

A slogan has been defined as: Not a cliche'; not a hollow "brag', but something special, something to take pride in, something toward which all can work.

The judges in 1969 did not agree on the slogan. An item from the Polk Progress reads:

> Harry Sorenson of Sioux City, Ia. came to Polk for the first time last week. He stopped at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Lampshire. These were his first remarks to them. "My, what a lovely town you live in - it is so clean and prosperous looking. I'm really impressed with the attractiveness of your small village. What kind of people live here, what is their occupation? Do you have any industry here? The town is well laid out and so pretty. It is a town that looks like it is moving ahead."

GIFTS--YEAR-ROUND
Gifts You Can Give the Entire Year

THE GIFT OF PRAISE--Appropriate mention--right in front of the other fellow--of superior qualities or of job or deeds well done.

THE GIFT OF CONSIDERATION--Putting yourself in the other fellow's shoes and thus proving your genuine understanding of his side of the case.

THE GIFT OF CONCESSION--Humbly saying at just the right point, "Sorry--you're right and I am wrong."

THE GIFT OF GRATITUDE--Never forgetting to say, "Thank you"--and never failing to mean it.

THE GIFT OF ATTENTION--When the other fellow speaks, listen attentively. If his words are directed to you personally, meet his eye squarely.

THE GIFT OF INSPIRATION--PLANT SEEDS

THE GIFT OF INSPIRATION--Plant seeds of courage and action in the other fellow's heart. Help him to strive for greater accomplishment and lasting satisfaction.

THE GIFT OF YOUR PERSONAL PRESENCE--In sickness, in trouble, or in a day of great joy, there is nothing quite equal to your personal expression of sympathy or congratulations.

PRESENT DAY BUSINESSES

AUCTIONEERS AT POLK

It's fun to hear a home boy "cry" the auction sale.

Polk has two local products, farmer boys, who are auctioneers.

Verland Widga, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Widga started in January 1968 with Lloyd Hanquist (deceased). He cried six to fifteen sales a year, with 1973 the most, fifteen sales. Total sales, 56.

His first sale was the Willard Lindburg farm sale. He helped at Fullerton Sales Barn a few months (on Fridays) in 1969.

He has donated his work to help sell the Polk County 4-H livestock at the county fair.

His largest sales were farm sales of Vernon Green, Gilbert Lampshire, Wayne Ramsey, & Neil Van Housen.

Richard Mundt started in 1972 with Verland. He attended the Reisch School of Auctioneering at Mason City, Iowa. Richard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Mundt.

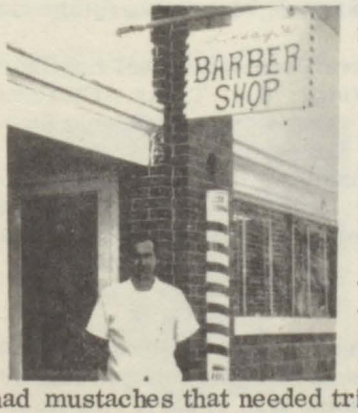
BARBER SHOPS! THEN THREE, NOW ONE!

F.C. Freschauff and A.C. Quillen were the first barbers at Polk. At one time there were three shops. In those days a striped barber pole, painted red and white was placed outside the shop entrance. That way everyone knew the barber's location.

Mr. Quillen's ad in the Progress in 1907 advertises a three chair shop, available both facilities, and various hair tonics. He barbered here for many years, Wednesday and Saturday nights were especially busy for barbers. A shave was 25¢, a bath 25¢ and hair cuts 50¢.

Some of the other barbers through the years were Ed and "Augie" Nelson, Rev. Montzingo (Free Methodist minister), H.G. Whitacre, Will Jones, Harold Nelson, Syford Gustafson, Philip Meline, a Mr. Mooney and a Mr. Wickstrom. The latter now has a large Supply Co. for barber and beauty shops in Lincoln.

The present, Lindsey Darnell, is not only a barber, but is also an excellent cabinet maker and upholsterer.



Congenial Lindsey Darnell is Polk's busy barber at the present time. His shop is located in the Community Hall Building. Most men prefer to use electric razors at home, so shaves are not much in demand. Hair cuts are $1.75. While it is the style in 1974 to wear the hair long, such was not the case in 1907. Early Polk citizens needed hair cuts and the older men had mustaches that needed trimming. Many men shaved themselves at home with a single blade five inch folding razor, yet barbers did do a lucrative shaving business. Some individuals even had their private shaving mug which was kept at the barber shop. Round shaving soap to fit a mug was a common commodity wherever soap was sold.

Incidentally, he does not talk or hear, but notes and placards are used to tell him "how they want it" and he does a good job.

BEAUTY SHOPS

When bobbed hair for girls became a popular coiffure in the 1920's, beauty shops began to be established in Polk. The marcel style was the vogue and operators used a double ridge iron to make an effective hair set. One of the early operators in Polk was Edna Jones, now Mrs. Ervin Hahn of Cambridge, Iowa. Edna had a shop in the home of her sister, Mrs. Harry Johnson. Some of the other operators who have had shops during the years were Marie Williams Nelson, Marie Madison, Elaine Stromberg, Harleen Heiden, Maxine Kostum, Ruth Herman, who had a shop in Hotel Hokenson, Anita Mundt Wochner, and Mrs. C.L. Davis. The latter's shop was in the Adelson Building.

Mrs. Janet Ostrander had a shop on east Main Street and later moved it to her home. Mrs. Blanche Nelson also has a shop in her home and has been in business for many years.

In the fall of 1973 the Tip Top Beauty Shop owned by Carol Schinzel of Stromsburg was established in the Hotel Building. Linda Ott is the operator. Caring of wigs and wiglets is an added service of beauty operators now.

CITIZENS STATE BANK

The Citizens State Bank is the most recent business place to be renovated. This building has been remodeled into a beautiful, luxurious place with expanded facilities, separate office rooms, carpeting, and lovely wall pictures. To the north is a drive-in window for customer convenience. Open house was held on April 19-21, 1974.

Present officers are Kenneth Stewart, President, Doris Stewart, Vice President, Dennis Johnson, Cashier. Assistant Cashiers are Beverly Coover, Jean Harless, and Janice Bankson. Bookkeepers are Betty Carlson and Melody Albin. Present directors are Kenneth Stewart, Doris Stewart, Joyce (Stewart) Baird and Harold L. Carlson. Total deposits for 1973 were over two million dollars.

The Citizens State Bank has been the only bank in Polk for many years. It was incorporated on April 30, 1919, with $25000 capital and has been located at this same place for 55 years. The Board of Directors were John H. Anderson, President, and Isaac T. Samuelson, Vice-President, Harry A. Johnson and William E. Johnson, directors. John H. Anderson was a Polk Citizens Bank official for 25 years, most of the time serving as president. Harry A. Johnson was the first cashier. Arnold Isaacson was cashier for many years. In 1921 the building was remodeled to more efficiently serve

the public.

Today the Bank gives an attractive, up-to-date appearance to West Main Street.

DICK'S STANDARD SERVICE

Dick Harless purchased the Phillips "66" Service Station from Floyd Lyle on December 1, 1962. Dick changed to Standard Oil products on May 1, 1964, and renamed the business as Dick's Standard Service. At that time, he also added tank wagon delivery for his farm customers. To date, he has enlarged his business to cover not only the farmers fuel needs, but he also handles a complete line of motor oils, farm chemicals, fertilizer and liquid propane.

DOCTORS

Polk's two early doctors were Dr. F. W. Woeppel who came from Wahoo, Nebraska and Dr. David H. Westfall of David City. Both came in 1907 and were devoted men to their profession, and served untiringly during the spinal meningitis (polio) epidemic in 1909. There were so many cases of this crippling disease in and around Polk that Polk was quarantined for several months. This disease was prevalent among children and left practically everyone crippled. There were several deaths in the Polk locality. At first Dr. Woeppel had his office at his residence (the house where Hugh McGaffin's lived), but in 1909 moved to the second story of the new First National Building on Main Street. Dr. Westfall's office was first in this building and later moved to an office on Main Street. Dr. Westfall remained in Polk for 32 years, until his death in 1939.

Dr. Frank B. Slusser came to Polk in about 1909 and had his office also above the First National Bank. Dr. Slusser also maintained his practice here until his death.

Dr. C.L. Ayres, whose brother H.E. Ayres had an early hotel in Polk was a Polk doctor for many years. Dr. J.R. Liebee came in 1920. He advertised a hospital in his home with nursing service. Dr. Liebee is recalled with fond admiration by Polk High School athletes of 1921-1922 as he was their football coach. He arranged his office hours so he could drill Polk's first football team after school.

Dr. James Benjamin Williams had his office on west Main Street and was a busy, well-liked doctor for many years. After his retirement to California Polk was left with no physician.

Local residents were responsible for securing the services of Dr. Clifford M. Hadley, a former Lutheran minister whom they sponsored. A medical clinic was made available and he and his family remained in Polk for several years.

Presently Dr. Deryl J. Loschen, Dr. Michael A. Breiner and Dr. Richard F. Brouillette all of York, Nebraska alternate coming to Polk two days a week. A doctor's office and clinic is maintained by the village of Polk on west Main Street. Mrs. Gerald Stevens serves as office receptionist.

Ten doctors have served our community since 1907. Three Polk graduates have been physicians elsewhere - Dr. Arthur A. Peterson, Class of 1922 is a general practioner at Central City, Colorado - Dr. Howard Wilcox of Texas, Class of 1941 and Dr. Vernal Norine, of Seattle, Washington, Class of 1925.

ELEVATORS

THREE ELEVATORS THEN, ONE NOW!

Polk had three elevators at one time and all doing a very thriving business. In 1924 the T. B. Hord Elevator Company had a large elevator here. We know F. B. Williams was an early elevator manager in 1908. There are two elevators in Polk now, the Farmer's Co-op Grain Association of Polk with Dean Myers as manager and Polk Grain Co. with Vern Jones, manager.

FARMER'S CO-OP GRAIN COMPANY

The Farmer's Coop Grain Company was reorganized in 1929. At that time they owned two elevators. The first concrete elevator was built in 1948 and one elevator was discontinued in 1954. Steel flat storage buildings were built in 1956 and 1957, and four steel tanks erected in 1971, bringing the total capacity to 850,000 bushels.

Louis Glad was the manager for many years. Carl Steelquist was the manager until 1945, Ed Ringler until 1948 and since then Dean Myers has been manager.

The following have been presidents of the Board of Directors for the past 25 years: Rudolph Nyberg, Ben Peterson, E. B. Klingsborn, M. L. Johnson, Maurice Flick, Lennis Lind, Donald Dahlin, Leslie Adelson, Harold Anderson, Paul Stevens, Ed Dobberstein and Donald Widga.

The present directors are President - Noel Kealiher; Vice President - Don Widga; Sec - Treas. - Clarence Meerkatz; Roland Rodine, Larry Coover, Dennis Stevens and Richard Mundt are Jr. Board members.

Corn through the years has been the leading commodity handled. In recent years milo has extensively grown. Wheat and soybeans rank next. Coal is no longer sold at Polk.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire was a constant threat in early Polk with crude lighting and heating systems and houses being so hastily built. No doubt there was some type of early fire fighting apparatus in Polk, but old timers do not recall any major fires when Polk was being built. Perhaps extra caution was always maintained, which was as should be. In due time a fire engine was purchased. Now Polk has

an up-to-date fire engine and modern fire equipment with local men acting as volunteer firemen. Fire chief is Dennis Johnson.

Polk has had three major fires — the latest, the Grade School building on December 22, 1973, in 1919, the interior of the Baptist Church and in 1918, the large Stevens Livery Barn. The same night as the Grade School fire, the contents of the David Stromberg farm home were destroyed, due to defective wiring.

POLK GRAIN COMPANY

The Polk Grain Company Elevator was erected on August 25, 1958; owners - Mr. Ivan Marson, Jack Dinsdale and Roy Dinsdale.

The capacity at that time was 430,000 bushels of grain stored by the U.S. Government. In 1959, 180,000 more bushels were added in buildings built nearby, making a total of 610,000 bushels.

Mr. Estor Lackey became Manager assisted by Charles Wright. On December 12th, 1959, Vern Jones became feed Manager bringing with him the franchise for Purina Feeds.

In 1961, Vern Jones became Elevator Manager and the buying and selling of grain. Purina Feeds and Sanitations began.

In 1962, Bulk Feed Tanks were installed with 11,000 tons and $3000 dollars in sanitations sold. A bulk feed truck was purchased. On August 8th, 1971 a grinder-mixer tank was installed plus a 6000 gallon capacity tank for liquid feeds.

On September 8, 1966 Mr. Ivan Martson sold his interest in the company to Jack and Roy Dinsdale. In 1968 one more bulk feed truck was added.

In 1973, 4200 tons of feed were sold; $25,000 dollars in Sanitations and 1,042,786.00 bushels of grain purchased.

Polk Grain Company, under the management of Mr. Vern Jones serves the community with pride with feed and sanitation deliveries and the buying and selling of grain. Mr. Jones is ably assisted by his four employees, Mrs. Janice Widga, bookkeeper; Larry Jones, Everett Goertzen and Henry Dittmer.

FARMER'S CO-OP OIL INC.

The Polk Farmers Co-Op Oil Inc. was started in 1929 and has been in continuous operation since. The property was purchased from the late Amel G. Lindburg who had a service station here. Nels Nyberg was the first Farmers Co-Op manager and his son, Maurice, was the first tankman. Clarence Bryant was manager in 1941 followed by Clarence Bolton, Ralph Kahler, and Walter Nelson. Some of the men who have served as tankmen have been Bill Williams, Walter Nelson, Shad Stroupe, and Don Upton.

Lyle Dornburgh has been the manager since 1956. The present tankmen are Lowell Bills and Philip Meline. Mrs. Wayland Flodman is bookkeeper. Allan Tonniges and Anthoney Warnick are also employers. They serve about 200 patrons.

FOOD SHOP

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Meline started the Food Shop in July of 1971.

They bought the building from Norris Alfred. They remodeled, lowering the ceiling, paneling the walls taking out all the booths and putting in tables.

They have a self-serving coffee bar, and serve lunches and meals.

HILL SAND AND GRAVEL

Glenn Hill in 1939 started the Hill Sand & Gravel Company and has been given many state contracts to fill as well as out-state and federal.

He, during busy times hires as many as 25 men, general contracting, putting gravel on roads, putting up guard rail, seeding side of highways, etc. His crew put up most of the guard rails on Interstate 80 from York to the Wyoming line. Chas Logsten is foreman, Mrs. Logsten, secretary for Mr. Hill.

Putting rock on Sherman Dam and seeding grass in the area was done by his company. He recently received an unexpected honor, he was recognized by Governor Exon and Highway Supervisor Boyle for the highest percentage of specified completion of work in 1973 in the $100,000 to $500,000 division.

Hill Sand and Gravel has also completed many contracts outstate, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri and South Dakota.

HIWAY CAFE

The Hi Way Cafe, was known as Kahler Coffee Shop. Located on Highway 14, on the east edge of Polk, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Johnson purchased it in August of 1971.

They remodeled it, paneled and carpeted it. They have four tables and a counter. The basement has two large tables, and twenty-five or thirty people can be served there.

JOHNSON GARAGE

Clarence Johnson has been servicing cars in Polk for 40 years.

He and his brother Donald started in 1934 as the Chevrolet Garage. They sold cars, old and new. Donald moved to Osceola in 1946.

Since 1956, "Pete", as Clarence is known has operated a garage. He has had a number of men work as mechanics for him.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA NATURAL GAS CO.

In 1962 the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Co. obtained a franchise with Polk to transmit and sell gas within Polk and surrounding areas. They maintain an attractive office on West Main Street. Mr. Lloyd Albin is the manager. Office secretary is Mrs. Lowell Bills. They now serve 166 customers in Polk and 1,783 in surrounding territories. They also service the towns of Benedict, Marquette, Phillips, and Chapman and rural areas, so have a lot of irrigation wells and crop dryers. The four servicemen in Polk are Tom Stevens, Tom Mundt, Dick Neeman, and Gordon Fossburg.

HOLIDAY LAUNDRY

Holiday Laundry, owned by Arnold and Lauretta Neuhaus, had its grand opening on January 11, 1964. There were 3 dryers, 6 Maytag washers, a dry cleaner and a presser-ironer. Since then 2 washers have been added. In the first 8 years Lauretta had been in attendance all day every work day but only part time the last 2 years.

"Some of the families have been doing their weekly washes with us all these 10 years. We are grateful to them and to all the friends we have made."

NORTON LAW OFFICE

William Norton of Osceola maintains a law office in the old hotel building. He comes to Polk on Wednesday for business here.

He is also Polk's attorney for official matters.

His father, the late William Norton, Sr., a Polk H.S. alumnus, was a lawyer at Polk before his son took over the business.

POLK LIBRARY

The Polk Library was organized in November 1913 by the Women's Culture Club of Polk. Mrs. Maurice F. Smith was the main instigator of the library, which started with 150 books, most of which were donated by local people. Later books were borrowed from the State Library Commission at Lincoln.

Miss Lillie Brauer was the first librarian and served 3 years. She was followed by Mrs. Myra Cox. Mrs. J.E. McDaniels was librarian for 34 years.

In 1916 the Village Board took over the jurisdiction of the library moving it to Harry Shafer's Jewelry Store where the Kansas-Nebraska office now is. When the Jewelry Store was moved to North Main Street — the library books went with it. Later the books were taken to the I.O.O.F. building. At the present time it is located in the basement of the City Hotel Building. It now has 3000 volumes and records. It loans around 800 books a year and maintains a summer reading program.

The present librarian is Mrs. Oscar Sundberg. Mrs. Olof Alfreds served as librarian for many years before Mrs. Sundberg. Mrs. Sundberg orders books not available at Polk through the regional library at Columbus. No charge, except for return postage, is made for this service. The library is open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

The Library has a Memorial shelf, where friends or relatives donate a book in memory of a loved one. Among the people who have made donations of books are Mrs. Ross Goethe, who gave the 34 volumes of Parker's "People's Bible", Mrs. Will Newton, Lillie and Emma Lind, Shannon Shafer, Mrs. Wilbur Whitacre, Edwin Lindburg, Rev. Benjamin, Mrs. Ruth Kroger, Mr. Robert Stromberg, Mrs. Dwight Burney, Mrs. Irvin Anderson. The book "Call of the Land" was donated by the Pleasant Homemakers 4-H Club.

At one time the town appropriated $250 annually for the purchase of books.

Several former and present residents of Polk have written and published books. Evelyn Norton Lincoln, personal secretary to the late President John F. Kennedy published two interesting books "My Twelve Years with President Kennedy" and "Johnson and Kennedy". The book "Anything but the Truth" was written by William McGaffin, a Washington D.C. correspondent and tells of his political memoirs. The book "Grasslands" written by James and Alice Wilson has been sent to all corners of the world and hundreds of copies sold. Alice also wrote a column for the magazine "The Nebraska Farmer" for 14 years. The Wilsons have also written other magazine articles. Other books written were "Sod House to Shelterbelt" by William A. Stevens, "Nebraska's Farmer Governor" by former Governor and Mrs. Dwight Burney — Mrs. Burney also wrote "For 33 — A New Life". The Donelson family history was written by Mrs. Lloyd Widga and Mrs. Horace Stevens. Mrs. Widga also wrote "The Widga Family Tree", "We Saw Panama", and "Our Stevens Heritage"

Con'd on page 11

were written by Mildred Stevens Anderson, a 4-H Memory Book was published by the Pleasant Homemakers 4-H Club, and "Prayers for Teenagers" by the Wide Awakes S.S. class of the Methodist Church. The "History of the Andrew Peterson Family" was written by Mrs. Irvin Anderson and Mrs. Walter Binford. The latter also wrote a genealogy of her grandparents, the Lars Samuelson family. Commemorative books of the Polk Public School, Polk Baptist Church, Polk Mission Church and Polk Methodist Church have been written by different committees, as well as a Golden Anniversary Alumni Book.

POLK ELECTRIC SHOP

Wayne C. Swanson, a retired Service officer, opened an electric repair shop in 1973. He is kept busy wiring and rewiring and servicing electrical appliances.

His shop is located on the southwest Main Street.

POLK FARM SUPPLY

The Polk Farm Supply Co. is owned and operated by Robert Clymer. It originated as the Customs Farm Service Co., seven years ago. In 1972 it was sold to Mr. Clymer. They do a large business supplying farmers with anhydrous and dry fertilizers. It is located in West Polk.

POLK MACHINE AND SUPPLY

Ed Recknor, three years ago, bought the former Fredrickson Implement building and started the Polk Machine and Supply Company.

Ed does general machine repair and also some manufacturing of small farm implements, i.e. parts of cultivators, etc. He also farms and lives south of Polk, and had been connected with Polk Industries before it's sale.

POLK'S IGA STORE

Mr. and Mrs. Homer MacDonald of Columbus are the owners of Polk's IGA Store, Polk's only grocery store.

They bought the store in March, 1974 from Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Stromsburg, who had been in the grocery business 40 years. Modern, with meat market facilities, the store also handles some drugs, cosmetics and sundries, i.e. cards, thread, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald and family reside in the Roy Glasser lovely stone home in west Polk.

Homer MacDonald Is New IGA Owner

POLK OIL COMPANY

In 1973, Duane Burney purchased this Service Station from Neil McNaught. Ken Carlstrom and Dale Perkins deliver gas. Neil "Nick" McNaught started in business in Polk in 1946 and continued as a Polk businessman until 1972. Prior to then he had a bulk plant and oil truck delivery business. "Nick" purchased this station in 1952 from Clifford Cramer, the former owner.

POLK'S POST OFFICE

The first Post Office was located on East Main Street in the same building as Polk's early jewelry store. Mr. O. Frost served as Polk's first postmaster assisted by his wife. Mr. Frost died in 1909 while in office and Amos W. Shafer filled out the term. Charles Harless was the first appointed postmaster taking office in 1910. The post office had been moved in 1908 to the west part of the First National Bank building.

Later it was moved to it's present site where it has since been remodeled. Early records of the post office have been destroyed, but we do have this list of postmasters- Hugh McGaffin, Amos W. Shafer, Isaac T. Samuelson, Mrs. Martha Westfall, wife of Dr. David Westfall, Clarence Rodine, Lee Byers (who died in office), the present Donald Hanquist, and Mrs. Margaret Jones, who filled in a vacancy for a short time.

Polk is a Class III post office. Early postmasters were of the same political party as the U.S. president and when a different political party came in power, it meant changing postmasters following Civil Service examinations. In recent years appointments are not subject to political approval.

Mail is brought in by a special mail bus each day since train service is discontinued.

Donald Hanquist became Polk's postmaster after the death of Lee Byers in 1971. Polk Post Office serves 165 families with locked post office boxes. The average which is used by Polk and area would be about $1000 a month. (Sale of stamps & postage)

There are 146 patrons on the rural route, which covers 78 miles.

POLK PROGRESS

The Polk Progress was born on February 15, 1907 with A.C. Hammond as editor and J.C. Nagaell as assistant. It was located in a small building just north of the present Glen Hill Sand and Gravel office building.

The name Polk Progress was suggested by Polk's first mayor, Dr. David H. Westfall and has been in use ever since. The first issue that we could locate was April 25, 1907 and may be seen at the City Library. The State Historical Society has issues for the year 1909 and 1910 which were very helpful in finding early data. In 1909 A.C. Hammond was associated with J.C. Hill for a short time. Then Hammond bought out Hill's interest and served as sole editor till 1910. Then Progress was sold to Richard O. Allen of York. Later, Hugh McGaffin was editor for many years, followed by Howard Herbes, Alton Wilhelms and the present editor, Norris Alfred. In the 67 years existence there have been only 7 editors.

The subscription price in early years was $1.00 a year and the editors would take cobs or produce in payment. Advertising rates were 5¢ a line and display rates were 10¢ per inch. In 1910 the Progress had over 500 subscribers. The paper was slightly larger than our present one. Local store ads covered the entire front page and local items were inside and back. There was a column for Stromsburg, Osceola, Bradshaw and Hordville news. Correspondents from these towns furnished news regularly each week. Hordville, especially, had many ads and local items. The Progress was six columns and eight pages. Polk firms all had large ads and much more advertising was found in each weekly issue than we have now.

Obituaries and weddings were written up in elaborate detail. Inspiring editorials dwelt on the "Spirit" of Polk.

Today the progress office is located on the west side of Main Street and the subscription price is $5.00. There are 800 subscribers.

One interesting item in 1910 told of a contest conducted by the Progress to try to get new subscribers. The contest winner was to receive a piano.

Redman Plumbing and Well Supply

Ralph Redman is kept busy in the Polk area as Polk's plumber. He maintains a building for supplies on Polk's Main Street. He recently purchased the area and building formerly occupied by the Polk Lumber Yard.

POLK'S RESCUE UNIT

Under the jurisdiction of the Polk Fire Department, whose Fire Chief is Dennis Johnson, Polk, in 1968 acquired a new rescue unit.

The unit was made possible by county inheritance funds and the unit cost about $3,000 and the equipment about that much. (The two way radio was installed at a cost of about $1,400). Two cots were loaned the unit by the Wall Mortuary.

In its four years of operation it has to date made 188 trips transporting ill and injured to the doctor or hospital of their choice. The fartherest trip has been to Omaha. Several have been made to Lincoln, but Central City, Osceola or Aurora Hospital destinations are the most common.

Eighteen of the twenty six men have taken the Emergency First Aid course. Requirements are that each go to school to a three hour course of twelve weeks once every three years. Much literature is read and distributed to those who drive the unit or qualified personnel who handle the patient. Schools are held in neighboring towns, the next on schedule to be at Polk.

There are six phones, paid for and installed by the village which blare out an alert. During the day calls come into the Polk Coop Grain Company, and Mayor Myers or other employees call for the unit and those assigned that month to operate it.

The other five phones also ring, one at the Recreation Club, at Don Hanquist, Dean Myers and Duane Burney homes. All six ring at the same time, but the home phones are primarily for night calls.

Each month at the firemen's meeting, three persons are assigned to take care of the unit - see that it is ready to leave at a moments notice, clean it up afterwards and also clean up the "fire barn" as the building where the unit and fire equipment is kept, is called.

Polk belongs to the Mutual Aid group which comprises towns of this area, who will come to help each other in time of need.

If Polk's unit should by busy, arrangements have been made to call the Clarks unit. Clarks has also the same agreement with Polk.

The breakdown of average calls would be about three a month, calls for illnesses being the most frequent, and calls by senior citizens.

Although the unit is to be used primarily in Polk County, calls will be answered from nearby counties. The county provides about $500 a year for maintenance and repair of the unit. All the towns in the county have rescue units.

There cannot be any insurance written for a person over 65 years of age, who goes with the unit.

Not all the firemen live within the city limits.

SHAWS REPAIR AND SERVICE

Leroy Shaw started the Shaw Repair and Service on Polk's east main street in October 1972. He attended Milford Trade School 1958-1960, later working for International Harvestor Company. He was with IHC in York from 1964-1972. He has attended Hydraulic School and also taken combine schooling in Illinois, as well as other special schooling.

Married, he and wife Gertrude have 3 children, Jeff, Kenney, and Randy.

SNACK SHACK

The Snack Shack, east of the Co-op Co., owned by Mr. and Mrs. Burdette Flodman and family is a popular gathering place for the younger set. It is believed that Mr. and Mrs. August "Augie" Nelson built the shop and first operated a small cafe here. Some of the other owners have been Lawrence Sundberg, Rex Hancock, Virgil Flodmans from 1957 to 1960, Charles Norquests from 1961-1962, Roy Glassers, Jr. from 1963 to 1964. It was closed a year, then in 1966 purchased by the Henry Kisler family who operated till 1971 when it was sold to Hattie Green and Cynthia Carlson. The Burdette Flodman family bought it in 1972.

At one time the "Cafe" was used as a home. The Elmer Warnick family once lived there, later Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sealey, Jr.

RECREATION PARLORS

The Sportsman Bar, located on West Main Street was purchased in 1972 by William and Genese Munn. They installed a new front in the building in 1974. Former owners were Albert and Gladys Munn, Carl Carlstrom, Leonard Orendorff, and Robert Steinbock.

Another recreation parlor and cafe was formerly located on east Main Street and owned by Walter and Victor Johnson. Later, Richard and Don Widga purchased the establishment. It is not in operation now.

WATER AND LIGHT SUPPLY

In 1907 a water supply system was installed in Polk with a stand pipe in the lot west of Main Street. Then a special Bond election was held June 10, 1913 and bonds were voted in amount of $16,000 to purchase and extend present water system and also to install an electric light system.

On October 1, 1913 the city acquired the old water works and on December 9, 1913 an additional issue of bonds of $3,000 was voted for the electric light installations. What a thrill when the electric lights were turned on in Polk on February 20, 1914!

Electricity was purchased from Iowa - Nebraska Power District and Consumers Power District.

Two wells were dug in the early days of the village and were used until 1933 when a new well and water system were put in operation. A new water tower was added in 1934 and a second well in 1954.

The City Sanitary Sewer System and disposal plant was built in 1952. Arnold Neuhaus is the present Light and Water Commissioner. Some of the Commissioners were Ernest Grafe, William Steele, Ross Goethe, Sr. and Rolland Dahlin. Doyle Hahn is also a Water and Light employee.

About 175 houses are served by the city.

SUNDBERG AND SON

Sundberg and Son is the oldest continuing business in Polk. In January, 1907, the firm Thoren and Sundberg opened their doors. After 2 years, Thoren sold his interest to Henry Sundberg and his son Albert, and it became Sundberg and Son and still goes by that name.

In 1920, Oscar Sundberg bought out his father's share and is still with the firm.

They were located on the East side of Main Street for 38 years, then they moved across the street in 1945 to a larger location.

On December 31, 1963, Albert Sundberg retired and Ed and Janice Saylor, daughter and son-in-law of Oscar, purchased Albert's share.

Both Albert and Oscar received Gold Hammers for being in the Hardware business for 50 years.

Vast changes in the commodities have taken place since the early days of the coal ranges, pot bellied stoves, parlor heaters, hand operated washing machines, push type lawn mowers, wooden ice boxes and in the fall a stock of 200 dozen corn shucking gloves and mittens; a great change in repair going from harness repair and binder canvas repair to the modern electric and gas appliances and plumbing supplies.

WALL FUNERAL HOME

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Wall of Hampton own and maintain the Wall Funeral Home at Polk. The Walls became owners after the death of Mrs. Wall's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Brauer, who remodeled and added on to their family home to have the Brauer Funeral Home.

Mr. and Mrs. Lanny Ang live in the residence and take calls, relaying them to the Walls.

Mrs. Wall is a licensed mortician and worked with her her father before owning the Polk and Hampton Funeral Homes.

"GONE TO SEED"

WILSON SEED FARM

In 1917, Jim Wilson left Polk County to see the great wide world and make his fortune. In 1955, having seen the great wide world and made his fortune, he, with his wife, Alice, retired to Polk County to "hobby-farm" on the quarter-section east of Polk, bought by old John Wilson in 1885. In the '40's, Jim and Alice had bought from the thirteen other heirs of his grandfather's estate. For 67 years the land was expertly farmed for the Wilson family by Joe Ehn, his father and his brothers. After leveling the farm for irrigation and putting down a well, Jim and Alice began experimenting with seed of the old prairie grasses which had once covered the Great Plains, vast pastures for hundreds of thousands of buffalo.

Soon the quarter-section was planted entirely to grasses, one kind to a field — switchgrass, Indian grass, big and little bluestem, sideoats grama — the big, sturdy grasses that the pioneers had plowed up. Customers for the seed were farmers and ranchers, interested in pounds-of-beef-per-acre for pasture and rangeland. In 1961 another old Wilson quarter-section, a mile east, was added to help meet the demand for seed.

Many Polk young people have put in a stint reguing fields, setting siphon tubes and scooping seed. Gary Green was the first full-time employee. Galen Sterner worked after school, Saturdays and summers through high school and college. Andy and Helen Litty were with the Wilsons five years, till they retired in 1970. Don and Mary Wischmeier, with their daughters, Heather and Heidi, came then, living at Sun-Up, the east farm. Don is now production manager, Mary is sales manager.

Through the years, the Wilsons kept spreading the word about these unique prairie grasses — magazine articles, speeches, a book "GRASS LAND", illustrated with magnificent photographs by their son, Steven. Orders for seed kept coming from farther and farther away, from Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, then Ohio, New York, New England, New Jersey, West Virginia — even France, South Africa, Israel, New Zealand and New Caledonia!

Prairie grasses had been native in 46 states, and suddenly people began to realize how much better they were than imported exotics for many uses — for "people pastures" as well as livestock pastures. With the growing longing for the "good old days" and the leaping interest in the environment, orders came pouring in from wildlife refuges, industrial plants, college campuses, parks, youth camps...from museums, shopping centers, motels....

Today, Wilson prairie grasses are beautifying the grounds at Caterpillar Tractor Co., Detroit Edison Co., General Electric Co., Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, Stuhr Museum, Milwaukee Botanical Gardens, Universities of Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan and many others, Jones-Laughlin Steel Corp., Allegheny Coal Cor., Cook Co. (Ill.) Forest Reserve District, and hundreds of private homes and estates, nature centers, airports, public and private schools, city, county, state and national parks, wildlife refuges, national forests, etc., all over the country — not just little patches here and there, but thousands of acres of waving grasses for a low-maintenance ground cover to protect our eroding earth and to provide a nostalgic reminder of how it was before man wrought havoc on his planet.

Soon the Wilson Seed Farms will be adding native wildflowers to meet the demands of landscape architects, highway planners, park superintendents and backyard gardeners who long for a little touch of the natural world.

Today huge semi-trailers make their way up the Wilson lane with seed from other growers, and Polk, Nebraska, is famous across the nation as a prime source of prairie grass seed.

POLK VETERINARIANS

The first veterinarian in Polk was Dr. J.D. Cook, coming in 1907. Dr. Ralph L. Peterson, a native of Stromsburg started his veterinarian career in Polk and continued here until his death. He opened his office in a room in the west part of the Ed Stevens Livery Barn. Later, he built a large horse barn just off the north edge of Main Street and one-half block east, calling it "The Horse Hospital." When this was discontinued the barn was torn down and Dr. Peterson had an office at his home in south Polk. Here he raised many unusual breeds of ducks, geese, chickens and peacocks, which he enjoyed showing to visitors. Ed Johnson, who lived on a farm west of Polk was also an early veterinarian.

In 1959 the Central City Veterinary Service was established in Polk with veterinarians from Central City serving this locality. They formerly maintained an office in the old Tenney building, where Chauncey Gustafson was the manager for ten years. C R. "Dick" Johnson has been Polk's veterinarian for 8 years. Mrs. Wilda Holmes has been secretary for 5 years. The office since December 1972 is in the north part of the Ed Recknor building.

A small town is a good place to live, close to the people, close to life, close to the soil. It keeps us humble.

Someone has said, "A prophet in her own village isn't a prophet at all, but just a woman buying groceries."

AMERICAN LEGION POST

The American Legion Post #160 of Polk was organized in 1925, after World War I. Having no building, the Post held meetings in various buildings on Main Street.

In 1946, the Pat Crow Drug Store was given to the Legion for a club room. This building was restored, and served as the Legion's Home. In 1967 the Vic Johnson Tavern, on the south side of the Legion was purchased and remodeled to give the Post an additional room for dancing and community uses. The following original charter members are still living in Polk: Joe Ehn, Irvin Gestrine, Martin Jones.

Present officers are: Philip Meline - Commander, Wayne Swanson - Vice - Commander, Dean Myers - Adjutant, Arnold Neuhaus - Finance Officer. There are 45 members.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary, Lemuel R. Wilcox Unit 160, was organized on March 19, 1925, with 29 charter members. Meetings were held one afternoon a month in the Legion Hall which was then the upstairs of the furniture store known as the Anderson Building. Later meetings were held in the homes until 1946 when they were held in the Lodge Hall. In 1947 the Legionnaires renovated the former Crow Drug Store giving both organizations a meeting place. Evening meetings were started in 1953.

One of the first projects was selling of the Memorial Poppy and has been continued every year since. Quilts were made for rehabilitation and sent to needy families in the Department (State) and all kinds of needed articles (as well as carpet rags sewed) were made for Veteran's hospitals throughout the years. Auxiliary has been generous in giving clothing, food, bedding, and money to the needy and to flood, tornado, and fire victims. In 1933 and 1934 fifty glasses of jelly were made and clothing solicited to give to drouth stricken Nebraskans.

Veterans in hospitals have been remembered and service men were never forgotten. In 1942 and 1943 the sons and daughters were remembered each month and during the Korean and Viet Nam conflicts service men were remembered at Thanksgiving or Christmas with candy or cookies.

The making of Memorial Day wreaths started in 1934 and have been made every year to put on the veteran's graves on Memorial Day.

The first girl sent to Girls' State was RaDonna Lindholm in 1948. Junior Auxiliary was organized in the summer of 1956.

In the years of 1956, '57, and '58 Polk Unit had the highest percentage of membership by September in the District and won an engraved gavel bell. The highest membership was 95 members in 1958.

The American Legion Auxiliary is a national organization with many programs. The local unit is most acitve in Rehabilitation, Child Welfare, and Community Service. The newest project is the sponsoring of Senior Citizen's bingo parties once a month.

Mrs. Chas Logston is president, Mrs. Marvin Branting, vice president, Mrs. Walter Nielsen, Sec., and Mrs. Lowell Bills, Treas., of the organization.

BOY SCOUTS - CUB SCOUTS

The first Boy Scout troup in Polk that we have any record of was the one led by Gerald ("Jerry") Stevens. They were a well organized group and assisted in Clean-Up, Fund Raising and other drives in Polk. Members of this club were Warren Bedient, Gaylerd Stevens, Robert Ostrander, Herbert O'Connor, Eugene Kotz, Robert and Larry Cramer, Frederick Dornburgh, Roger and Glenn Brazda, Bruce Johnson, Kent Sandell, Eugene Miller, Jerome Ruzicka, Gary Green, Joe Fisher, Dolan Hahn, Henry Dittmer, Steve Funk, Larry Jones and Alvin Skinner.

A Baptist minister, Rev. Skinner led a Boy Scout troop for several years.

The Cub Scouts were organized in 1970 with counselors, Mrs. Robert Clymer and Mrs. Ernest Brockevelt. Mrs. Myron Norquest, Mrs. Robert Clymer, Mrs. Donald Shostrom and Mrs. Morris Fisher are some of the ladies who have served as Den Mothers.

CAMPFIRE GIRLS

A Camp Fire Group was organized for the teenage girls in 1917. Mildred Stevens was president and they met after school. Some of the other members included Leona McConnell, Olga Gustafson, Bessie Senneff, Myrtle Christensen and Evelyn Lindburg.

The Ansudi Camp Fire was organized in 1924 by Violet Zuver now Mrs. Oscar Sundburg. Some of the members were Berniece Miller, Edna Jones, and Grayce Stevens, who served as president.

COUNTRY WOMAN'S CLUB

The Country Woman's Club was originally the Ideal Study Club, organized in 1915 by a group of Polk rural community ladies. It was an Extension Club and lessons were sent out by the State Extension Dept. Mrs. Rollie Williams, Mrs. Will Lindburg, Mrs. Wayne Hill and Mrs. Will Stevens were members of this Extensions Club. Two members would go to Osceola each month and receive lesson instructions, bringing them back to the local club.

In 1928 they reorganized and became the Polk Woman's Club. Their constitution of 1928 read in part, "The object of this Club is to stimulate interest for better farm homes and promote civic imp ovements - the officers to be elected in March and meeting time the fourth Thursday in the month". The Club's Colors are yellow and white and the flower is Chrysanthemum. The Club has kept and lived up to this same constitution for the past 46 years. In 1935 the name was changed to "The

Country Woman's Club" and belonged to the Woman's Federation of Clubs.

Some of the extension lessons taken were making crepe paper flowers, winter bouquets, dolls, making cheese, putting in zippers, keeping farm records, dipping vases and studying legal documents. At present the club does not do extension work, but plan their own.

In the past when the club members' children were small there would many times be more children than adults at the meetings. They remember a shut-in each month, donate to March of Dimes, Heart, Cancer, Easter Seal and Town Recreation funds and during the war remembered the Local Servicemen in many ways.

As of January 1974, the club has 17 faithful members of which 15 have belonged from 30 to 49 years - one for 20 years, and the newest member for four years.

President is Mrs. Clarence Meerkatz, vice-president Mrs. Oliver Johnson, Sec. Mrs. Mervin Samuels, ass't Sec. Mrs. Glen Stevens, Treas. Mrs. Richard Sealey, Sr. and ass't Treas. Mrs. Leslie Adelson.

FAITHFUL WORKER'S CLUB 1922-1974

On April 26, 1922 a group of women met at the home of Mrs. Irene Clifford to organize an extension club. Mrs. Clifford was elected president, Mrs. Viola Piper vice president, Mrs. Bessie Williams secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Hennie Seymour, press correspondence. The program committee was Mrs. Louellen Smith, Mrs. Clifford, Mrs. Ella Shenk, Mrs. Winnifred Lackey and Mrs. Kate Peterson. The name "Faithful Workers Club" was chosen and it has remained the same for 52 years. The first year as an extension club we received our lessons from the State University. In 1927 we joined the Polk County Federation of Women, terminated the extension work, and used lessons sent out by the Federation. We had speakers from the State, District and County Federation and had several book reviews prepared by the members. In the earlier years we supported our club expense by serving at farm sales and every Christmas made and sold aprons.

We continued to be a Federated Club until 1955 when we voted to have miscellaneous programs of our own chosing. Some of them have been an "Operetta on the Life of Stephen Foster", table decorations, etiquette, arts and crafts, book reviews, Easter in Other Lands, Nebraska Breakfast in Hollywood, Travelogues, Patrolman who gave safety talks and showed films, Hat Decorating, textile painting, home nursing, Law and Lawyers, remodeling kitchens, winter bouquets, cake decorating, demonstration on gift tying, candle making, making corsages and others.

We had a float at Polk's 50th Anniversary parade. We have given several donations to worthwhile projects during the years i.e. to the Polk Fire Dept. to help buy the Resuscitator, Nebraska Childs Saving Institute, Cancer Drive, March of Dimes, Aunt Sally, Edith Sterlin, Nebraska Childrens Home, Heart Fund, given 4 books to the Polk Library for departed members and also several to the children's shelf. Each Christmas, every member brings a gift for a child of the Nebraska Children's Home which is sent to them to enjoy at the holidays.

In 1954 we decided as a money making project to have a hostess gift. With this money taken in, a person of the community is chosen (who is ill or in the hospital) by the members and a gift is given them.

We have Secret Pals and each Christmas have a exchange of cookies and candy. Each member brings 3 dozen cookies or candy and we each take home a 3 dozen variety.

We have an annual February party for our husbands going out for supper followed by a card party. Each May we have a picnic for the youngsters of our group at the park.

On April 26, 1974 we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the club at a luncheon at the Bit of Sweden in Stromsburg, with written invitations being sent to all previous members. Corsages were presented to the charter members and a program given in poems, pictures of the early years, also a history of the years was read.

Today we have a membership of 15 and still stand by our name, "Faithful". We have an average attendance of over 90%. Mrs. Winnifred Lackey is the only remaining charter member still belonging to the club.

The officers in 1974 are: Mrs. Lyle (Irene) Widga president, Mrs. Don (Sharon) Hudson vice president, Mrs. Martin Hoffman secretary and Mrs. Lawrence (Esther) Larson treasurer.

We have lots of fun, we work, we play, and bring joy to others all along the way!

HOME SOCIETY CLUB

The Home Society Club was organized over 50 years ago, with Mrs. Charles Carlson as president. Among charter members were Mesdames Ed Benson, Albert Benson, Fitch Benjamin, Karl Detloff, T.J. Nelson and Nellie Peterson.

Their project was sewing for the Nebraska Children's Home in Omaha, Nebraska. This club is still active with 13 members meeting the third Wednesday of the month. We donate money at Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter and Childrens Day, also sew diapers for the home.

We entertain our husbands once a year with a dinner and a party and help with bingo for the Senior Citizens. On occasion we have taken tours, also visited the Children's Home in Omaha where we send our donations to.

We have had guest day with the Executive Director of the Nebraska Children's Home, Randall C. Biart as guest speaker.

Present officers are: president - Mrs. Grant Johnson, vice pres. - Mrs. Emory Cramer, sec-treas. - Mrs. Vergil Bush.

I.O.O.F. LODGE #328

The Viking Oddfellow Lodge #328 of Polk, Nebraska was organized in December of 1907. The charter was signed on December 12, 1907 by the following members: August Olson, Frank Williams, H.E. Larson, J.B. Gilbert, H.N. Halleck, C.N. Harris, W. Dahl, F.J. Hahn, P.G.A.C. Benjamin, C.A. Westman, V. Johnson, O.E. Johnson and James E. Hill. The charter was signed by Grand Master Clark O'Hanlon and I.P. Page, Grand Sec. Of the above group Victor Johnson and O.E. Johnson are still living.

At the time of organization, lodge was held in a hall owned by J.E. McDaniels. The membership outgrew the building so the lodge decided to build a building of their own. The Wilsons gave the land for the building. The cornerstone was laid and inscribed: M.W., A.F., A.M., Grand Lodge, September 22nd 1915, Viking Bldg, Ass'n.

Officers were: F.J. Hahn - pres., H.E. Larson - vice-

pres., J. P. Peterson - sec., R. L. Cox - treas. The committee consisted of H.M. McGaffin, C.W. Flick and Z.F. Myers.

Lodge was held in this building on west Main Street for many years. As time went on hard times caused attendance to drop and the group suffered financial difficulties. The city had to take over the building. Meetings were held in this building until 1955. The lodge learned the First National Bank Building was for sale. After the building was purchased on November 14th 1955 the members worked hard in converting the building into a lodge hall. The post office occupies the lower part of the building.

The Lodge hall is recognized by the Grand officers as one of the better, well-kept halls in the state today.

Many good times are held with the Rebekahs.

The Viking Lodge consists of approximately forty members today, some coming to meetings from Stromsburg.

Ralph Kahler is Noble Grand, Willard Henderson is Vice-Grand, Harold Carlson is Sec. and Emory Cramer is Treas.

THE MODERN MILLIES

The Modern Millies Extension Club was organized in 1969 with ten charter members. Their aim is to improve their homes and themselves. They support the scholarship fund for a girl planning to major in Home Economics at college, furnish for Polk Senior Citizens a Bingo Day and to York General Manor, donate food for the Bloodmobile and visit at hospitals.

Officers are: Mrs. Duane Burney - Pres., Mrs. Ed Erickson - Vice Pres., Mrs. Dennis Van Housen - Sec., and Treas. The club has 10 members.

POLK COMMUNITY CLUB

Polk has an active Community Club with member families of Polk and rural area. Dues are $5 a year.

Meetings are held the third Monday of the month. 1974 officers are: Frank Ostrander, President, Duane Burney, Vice President, Mrs. Duane Burney, Secretary and Dick Harless, Treasurer.

The 1974 Fourth of July celebration of serving barbecued chicken supper, a ball game and fireworks attracted about 350 persons.

The Club was until a few years ago known as Commercial Club and was made up of businessmen.

Several fine projects have been carried out by the club members, perhaps the outstanding one being Polk's Bean Days (told with story and pictures elsewhere).

Effort was made to obtain low-cost housing units in Polk, but to date this has not been successful.

The group sponsor the Summer Recreation Ball Game program. Three different ball teams of varying age groups of boys and three of girls are organized and games are played at Polk and nearby towns. Much of the success of this program was due to the late Bill Lavelle. At the present time Bill Clymer is general sponsor. Various ones sponsor each team.

Sponsorship of the taking of Polk boys and girls by bus to Stromsburg swimming pool once a week is sponsored by the club in the summertime.

The Club voted at their June, 1974 meeting to cooperate with Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Tyler in the Bi-Centennial Program, sponsoring various projects.

The annual Christmas event is enjoyed each year by the community. A registration is held and a drawing is held for gifts. In the past about 25 dressed turkeys have been given. In 1973, gift certificates were awarded to the lucky numbers. A cartoon movie is shown at the hall for the children, and afterwards Santa Claus comes to town and gives all kiddies a sack of candy.

Most of Polk's businessmen have, at one time or another, served as president.

POLK GARDEN CLUB

The Polk Garden Club was organized in 1957 and has been in existence ever since. First president was Mrs. James Brazda, Sr. with Mrs. Floyd Lytle as vice president and Mrs. Ben Peterson as news reporter and photographer. There were 12 members. This club each year plants flowers and shrubs along the park and highway helping to make Polk a beautiful and attractive town.

Nebraska AkSarBen awarded the Polk Garden Club a Good Neighbor Citation plaque in 1970. The Club holds a flower show each year on Bean Day, which is well attended.

There are seven charter members namely Mrs. S.J. Harless, Mrs. James Brazda, Sr., Mrs. Florence Hoffman, Mrs. Winnifred Lackey, Mrs. Conrad Lindholm, Mrs. Orlie Miller and Mrs. Oscar Sundberg. Mrs. Lyle Widga joined the second year and has been a member ever since.

Present Club officers are: Mrs. Leslie Adelson - president, Mrs. Willard Adelson - vice-president and Mrs. James Brazda, Sr. - sec-treas.

POLK WOMAN'S CLUB HISTORY

1909-1974

In 1909 Polk had three clubs for women - the Twentieth Century Club, the Woman's Culture Club and the Mother's Club. These clubs studied art, gave book reviews, promoted Lyceum courses, musical events and other civic betterment projects. Later the clubs united and organized as on federated club.

They were instrumental in starting a Public Library in Polk. Some of the other projects of the Woman's Club have been: Planting shrubbery and trees in Lilac Lawn, immunization of school children, building the fire place in Polk park and assisting in Salvation Army and March of Dimes Drives. They sponsor the Children's Reading Club for six weeks in the summer.

Mrs. Marvin Fredrickson is the 1974 president, Mrs. Leslie Adelson vice - president, Mrs. Mervin Samuels secretary and Mrs. Kenneth Stewart treasurer.

THE RAINBOW REBEKAH LODGE

The Rainbow Rebekah Lodge No. 382 was organized in 1926. Mrs. Mabel Dornburgh is the only living charter member. Alvin Dahlin is an inactive charter member.

Today there are 41 members with members coming from Stromsburg and Polk.

The officers today are: Noble Grand - Mrs. Lawrence Larson, Vice Grand - Mrs. Ella Dahlin, Sec. - Mrs. Alvin Dahlin, Treas. - Mrs. James Hatfield.

The Rebekah's activities include helping support the I.O.O.F. Home of York with donations, having quarterly birthday parties, a Christmas party and entertaining

other lodges. They also help the Viking lodge with the upkeep of their hall.

ROUTE 66 RIDERS HORSE CLUB

It was in March of 1966 that the Hordville Saddle Club, organized nine years before, and a number of members of Polk, Central City and Stromsburg area as well as Hordville decided that a better name for the group would be Route 66 Riders. (Highway 66 joins the towns). Mrs. H. Cox made the suggestion.

Families included were the Howard Cox, Melvin Blender, Lowell Bills, Merlyn Fowler, Gene Fowler, Roger Gustafson, Ron Johnson, Max Jones, Dean Myers, Dennis Richards, Horace Stevens and Mrs. Barbara Larson.

The members were participating in many horse shows and trail rides, as well as parades at this time. They rode in the Nebraskaland Days Parade in Lincoln, and at North Platte, Aksarben in Omaha and at Grand Island special event.

A flag was designed by Mrs. Roger Gustafson with the 66 Road sign painted in black and white on red material. Mrs. Horace Stevens sewed the flag, adding white fringe and tassels.

The present officers, (1974) of the club are Pres.-Dennis Richards, Vice Pres.-Tom Stevens, Sec-Treas.-Mrs. Tom Stevens, Lynn and Brad Sundberg and Ed Ostberg are board members.

Present members are the families of Ron Johnson (he is the only charter member still belonging), Dennis Richards, Brad Sundberg, Lynn Sundberg, Horace Stevens, Bill and Rick Hoffman and Ed Ostberg, Neal Van Housen and Tom Stevens families.

The club is a member of the Nebraska Horse Club Association. The members wear red western shirts, white with red polk-a-dot ties, blue jeans and light colored western hats. Club meetings are being held the last Wednesday evening of each month. Dues are $3.50 per family. The Carroll Flodman family and the Vern Skinner family have also belonged.

WILLANNA CHAPTER NO. 321 ORDER OF EASTERN STAR, POLK

Louis B. Houser, Worthy Grand Patron of Nebraska sent Walter Raacke, Associate Grand Patron to visit Polk to investigate the possibilities for an Eastern Star Chapter. After finding an enthusiastic group of Stars and a good Masonic Lodge, he recommended that a Chapter could be instituted.

On January 22, 1951, interested members of surrounding Chapters were invited to the home of Margaret Jones for the purpose of organizing an O.E.S. Chapter in Polk. We had contacted the Grand Secretary, Mrs. Allie Wegner, who sent a book of laws and a letter of instructions. First, we had to decide on a name, a meeting place and the first three officers. The officers elected were Margaret Jones, Worthy Matron; Kenneth Stewart, Worthy Patron; Ruth Aker, Associate Matron. The name "Willanna" was chosen in honor of Will Wurtz and Will Miller, Masonic members and Anna Wurtz and Anna Miller, O.E.S. members for years.

The Petition to Grand Chapter for dispensation was signed by the following members: Emma Nelson, Leroy Nelson, Lucille Leamons, Harvey Leamons, Kenneth Steward, Esther Stewart, Berniece Miller, Erma Adelson, Evelyn Shenk, Helen Samuels, Lelah McNaught, Margaret Jones, Ruth Aker, Verna Fredrickson, Helen Isaacson, Viola Benson, Flo Schultz, Harry Schultz, Ruth Kroger, Winnifred Lackey, Mabel Lucado, Leota Sneed, Anna Miller and Anna Wurtz.

April 9, 1951, we met at the home of Lelah McNaught to make final plans for the institution of our Chapter, having only one week to do it in. On April 14, 1951, was the institution of Willanna Chapter No. 321 of Polk, Nebraska. There were 90 in attendance including visitors from Clarks, Stromsburg, Central City, Hampton, Silver Creek and twelve Grand Officers.

Having worked under the leadership of the Grand Chapter for a year, on June 11, 1952, we received our charter. There were 50 that signed the charter.

Much of the paraphernalia and furniture was given by members of the Chapter. Twenty-one have served as Worthy Matron, and eighteen as Worthy Patron. Three have received 50 year pins. They are Anna Wurtz 60 years, Winnifred Lackey 59 years, and Emma Johnson 53 years. We now have a membership of 86 and meet on the second floor of the town hall in Polk, on the fourth Monday of every month.

The present Eastern Star officers are: Worthy Matron, Ruth Shenk; Worthy Patron, Herschel Shenk; Associate Matron, Beverly Bills; Associate Patron, Lowell Bills; Secretary, Margaret Jones; Treasurer, Erma Adelson; Conductress, Gwendolyn Lindburg; Associate Conductress, Charlene Shenk; Chaplain, Verlene Anderson; Marshall, Donald Lampshire; Organist, Nona Ostberg; Ada, Darlene Shoup; Ruth, Jerlene Nielsen; Esther, Dianne Johnson; Martha, Linda Tyler; Electra, Anita Norquist; Warder, Letha Person; Sentinel, Hugo Person.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized in 1909 and was very active during early Polk days. The February 3, 1910 issue of the Polk Progress listed the names of 43 members. Mrs. F.B. Williams was the recording secretary. They had an annual picnic with Hordville and Marquette with over 100 members plus their families present. They sponsored public programs consisting of debates, musicals and lectures. These were held at the Methodist or Baptist churches in Polk. County speech contests were held and much interest was manifested.

Mrs. Grant Willits, Mrs. Parker Aker, Mrs. William Stevens, Mrs. Thede Stevens, Mrs. William Lindburg, Mrs. C.E. Putman and Mrs. A.E. Swanson are former active members. Their organization has sponsored speech contests in the local school and annually has a "Flower Mission" Day distributing flowers to the sick and shut-ins.

4-H Clubs of Polk and Vicinity

4-H Pledge

I pledge my head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
And my health to better living,
For my club, my community,
and my Country.

Many interested persons have spent hours and hours of time in developing our community's youth through 4-H Organizations. Some of the very first 4-H Leaders around Polk were Josephine Lindburg (Mrs. Herbert Wurtz), Fern Myers of Gothenburg, Mrs. Seth Piper and Mrs. R. L. Smith. An early club was the Anti Kan't Cooking Club, a cooking club organized in 1927 and lead by Grayce and Mildred Stevens. Records show these first clubs were mostly cooking, sewing, beef or gardening projects.

The following is a list of the leaders and their club:

BUSY BEES: Rev. E. Anderson - 1954; Mrs. E. Anderson - 1954.

JOLLY JUNIORS: Mrs. Lee Bayer - 1952; Mrs. Ivan Cramer - 1953-1954.

ROCKETTES: Mrs. Marvin Branting - 1966-1969.

MERRY MIXERS: Mrs. C.L. Cramer - 1944, 1955-1957; Joan Cramer - 1957.

SUNNY SUES: Retha Creech - 1950; Mrs. Wayne Creech - 1968-1969.

BOXER BABY BEEF: Ed Dobberstein - 1953-1963; Glenn Dobberstein - 1963-1969; Jerry Ruzicka - 1954; Don Widga - 1964-1966; Irvin Beckstrom - 1969-1974; Verland Widga - 1970-1974.

MEADOWLARKS: Mrs. Rolland Stromberg - 1968-1972.

MIDGET MIXERS: Mrs. Edwin Doremus 1960-1963.

SUNNY SUES: Mrs. Edwin Doremus - 1949; Mrs. Lawrence Larson - 1950-1951; Mrs. Willard Larson - 1949-1954.

JOLLY FOUR: Mrs. Arthur Doremus - 1953-1970.

SEWETTES: Mrs. Victor Doremus - 1945-1968.

CLOVERETTES: Mrs. Rueben Ehn - 1962.

4 LEAF CLOVERS: Mrs. John Harding - 1948.

PLEASANT HOME FARMERS: Dick Harless - 1955; Leland Harless - 1950-1957; Lloyd Lind - 1950-1954.

PLEASANT HOMEMAKERS: Mrs. Irvin Anderson - 1946 - 1963; Mrs. Vergil Bush - 1956-1957; Mrs. Lloyd Hahn - 1946-1963; Marilyn Hahn Pierpont - 1952-1953; Sheralee Hill Iglehart-1951-1953

MERRY MAKERS: Mrs. S. A. Ramp - 1947-1948; Mrs. Paul Strand - 1946-1955; Carolyn Strand - 1951-1953 Mrs. Leslie Adelson - 1952-1954.

BIZZY BEES: Mrs. Edward Erickson - 1970-1972; Mrs. Mrs. Dick Neeman - 1970-1972.

JOLLY JUNIORS: Mrs. Harold Green - 1952-1954; Mrs. Ivan Cramer.

FOOD CLUB: Mrs. Walter Green - 1940; Mrs. R. L. Smith.

BEEF & DAIRY: Richard Sealey - 1941-1943.

SORGHUM: Arlo A. Stevens - 1939.

BUSY BEES: Mrs. Henry Kisler - 1952-1953; Mrs. Lloyd Stromberg - 1952-1954; Mrs. Dean Myers - 1962-1964.

ANTI-KAN'T COOKING CLUB: Grayce Stevens Burney - 1927-1929; Mildred Stevens Anderson - 1927-1929.

FOODS PROJECT: Mrs. Irvin Anderson - 1942-1945.

LEADERS LISTED WITHOUT CLUB NAMES: Lawrence Larson - 1931; W. L. Lindburg - 1930; C. J. McCoy - 1941; Richard Sealey - 1941-1943; Margaret (Jack Sears - 1932; R. L. Smith - 1939; Gordon A. Carlson - 1944-1945; Carol Flodman(orphan) - 1969-1972. Ralph Doremus - 1938; Mrs. Seth Piper - 1940.

BUSY BEES 4-H CLUB

The Busy Bees 4-H Club led by Mrs. Henry Kisler and Mrs. Lloyd Stromberg was started about 1952. Seven boys of the neighborhood organized and decided to have a Bird Club. Members were: Chas and Bruce Cramer, Gary and Arlyn Stromberg, Darwin Hahn, and Alvin Kisler.

Bird houses were made by the boys and exhibited at the county fair. Later Mrs. Kisler and Mrs. Dean Myers had a sewing and cooking club to which about 14 girls belonged, all living Polk. They took part in the county music contest, exhibited at county and state fair.

Members were: Nancy and Julie Kisler, Jolene, Carla and Marcia Myers, Christine Funk, Karen Miller, Glee, Dawn and Valli Killion, Mary Jo and Gail Widga, Sharon Fossberg and Vernalene Eklund.

Mrs. Kisler received a 5 year pin for 4-H leadership of Busy Bees.

ODDS 'N ENDS 4-H CLUB
1968-1974

A club that has been "going strong" the past year is a club that has had various members in various projects, thus the name Odds n Ends. Melvin Blender and Roger Hanquist of north of Polk are the leaders. Dairy has been an important project, also, Beef, Hogs, Rabbit, Welding, Woodworking and Gardening. Mrs. Melvin Blender has been active too, leading some girls in a sewing project.

They have won many purples at county fair, exhibited at District Show at Seward and at state fair and Aksarben.

Their members over the past five year period have been: Allan Willits, David and Debbie Creech, Victor and Kathy and Terry and Patty Bender, Todd, Rodney and Layne Hanquist, David Taylor, Scott Lindburg, Curtis Burney and Douglas Miller.

Victor and Kathy Bender won in 1972 outstanding dairy cow showmanship honors, Allan Willits was reserve in Judging in animal husbandry at county fair one year, and Allan also received a purple on woodworking exhibit at state fair.

Victor Bender paid the highest price for a 4-H Dairy heifer at Lincoln ($850 for a young dairy heifer 9 months old) as a Junior Dairy show one year.

MERRY MAKERS 4-H CLUB

The Merry Makers 4-H Club of Polk, was organized in 1945 by Mrs. Paul Strand and Mrs. S. A. Ramp. Mrs. Leslie Adelson was a co-leader several years and Carlyn Strand served as a junior leader.

This group remained active for ten years until 1955. They completed many projects in cooking, sewing, gardening, interior decorating and wardrobe, winning many high ratings on their exhibits and booths at the 4-H County Fair. The club won top rating one year in the 4-H singing contest in Polk County representing Polk County at the State Fair. Many educational tours were enjoyed by this group. They sang on a program on KRGI at Grand Island.

The club was active in community service, some were selling poppies for VFW for many years; they won prizes on decorated floats in the parade at Polk's celebrations, ornamental trees from AkSarBen were planted in Polk Lilac Lawn park; they cooperated in a public textile demonstration, and they observed 4-H Sunday by attending church.

Members during the ten years included Gwenda Fay Ramp, Carlyn Strand, Rocella Lindholm, Sharon and Judy Adelson, Jean, Joan and Judy Cramer, Judy and Marcia Johnson, Jo Ellyn Nelson, Mary Lou and Carmen Sandell, Sally Peterson, Harleen Johnson, Bridget and Irene Ruzicka, Jean and Beverly Ekdahl, Jeanelle Kroger, Patricia Kisler, Janice Crow, Cindy Doremus, Sharon Hoffman, Donna Cohagen, Janice Carlson, Karen Ang, Alnetta and Joan Leamons and Lois Miller.

A 4-H leader's pin for 10 years of service was presented to Mrs. Paul Strand in 1955.

BIZZY BEES 4-H CLUB
1969-1972

A girls 4-H Club was organized in 1969 under the direction of leaders, Mrs. Ed Erickson and Mrs. Dick Neeman with cooking and sewing projects taken by the girls. They exhibited at the Polk County Fair and took entries to the State Fair.

Peggy Neeman won a purple on skirt and blouse at the County Fair in 1972 and in 1971, Lori Hanquist and Cindy Tewell won purple ratings on aprons they made. Other members of the club were Judie Saylor, Sue and Becky Erickson, Janet and Jose Kendal, Cindy Neeman and Virginia Miller.

PLEASANT HOME 4-H FARMERS

An early 4-H Club was the Pleasant Home 4-H Club. Some of the members were Dick and Gary Harless, Gaylen and Lamar Lind, Jim Adelson and Verland & Donald Widga.

BOXER BABY BEEF CLUB
1952-1974

The Boxer Baby Beef Club was organized in Oct. 1952 with Ed Dobberstein, leader and Louis Heiden, assistant. There were six members, Gene Heiden, Jerome Ruzicka, Gilbert Ruzicka, Harold Anderson, Gwynel Johnson and Glenn Dobberstein. They participated in herdsmanship at the County Fair, receiving a purple ribbon.

Three new members were added in 1953 and Gerald Ruzicka became assistant leader. Harold Anderson assisted Ed Dobberstein in 1954.

Through the years the club has been very active in 4-H and community affairs. They won many medals and ribbons at the County and State Fairs, as well as at Aksarben. They usually had a float at the County Fair as well as putting up a Club Booth.

Three boys of this club were honored as 4-H Kings at the County Fair. They were Glenn Dobberstein, Dennis Widga and MacGleim.

After being a club member for 19 years, Glenn Dobberstein followed in the footsteps of his father and became a leader. Assistant leader was Don Widga.

In 1969 Irvin Beckstrom, leader, and assistant Verland Widga assumed responsibility of this club. Present members are Joel and Dana Anderson, Loren Beckstrom, Kevin and Mark Goertzen, Mike Jones, Edward Ostberg, Duane Rodine, Brian Samuelson, Lisa and Terri Warner, Randy and Roger Widga, Sharon Wendell and Douglas Miller and Tim Jones.

This club installed a 4-H sign on highway entering Polk. They are an outstanding club and brought many honors to our locality.

PLEASANT HOMEMAKERS 4-H CLUB

Many honors - county, state and national were won by this girls 4-H club, in existence 20 years. Mrs. Lloyd Hahn (now Mrs. D. Burney) and sister Mrs. Irvin Anderson were leaders of this club, assisted for a few years by Mrs. Vergil Bush.

They were the first club in Nebraska to earn money to go by bus to Washington, D.C , New York and Niagara Falls. "We sold everything from soup to nuts to earn about $1000 to make the trip in 1957," commented the leaders. A food stand at Polk's 50th anniversary celebration, a $100 donation by Mrs. Hazel Abel of Lincoln, who was guest speaker of the club at a Wedding Dress Revue, and the putting up of an agricultural booth at the State Fair, were the biggest money makers, but a poem book, sold for a $1, sale of candy, and baked goods, etc. helped boost the project. Mothers went along, paying their own way. In all 38 made the trip.

Natalie Hahn, a member of 11 years, won many purple ribbons at county and state fairs for demonstrations, baking etc. She was County Homemaking top winner one year. Natalie won the State Citizenship Award, as had her sister, Marilyn Hahn Pierpont some years before.

She attributes her ability to speak, to training in 4-H Public speaking. She was chosen a IFYE after University of Nebraska graduation in 1967 and spent 7 months in New Zealand, also toured India. Her 4-H training has proved beneficial in her present work - Youth Officer for Food and Agriculture in Rome, Italy. She is Polk County's only IFYE. She also led the first National 4-H Teenage Caravan to Japan in 1969, and worked one summer at the National 4-H office in Washington, D.C.

Sondra Hill (Mrs. Herbert Feidler of Norfolk) was also an outstanding member. She was runner-up in the Nebraska 4-H cherry pie baking contest and in Nebraska 4-H Speech Contest, after winning county and district. She won a trip to Chicago for Community Service, won purples in demonstrations and public speaking work, as did her older sister Sheralee, Mrs. Don Iglehart of Stanford, California.

The Club won National Honors in Citizenship and Safety 4-H contests, gave many radio programs over various Nebraska stations, took trips to points of interest in Nebraska, including Nebraska legislature, put on a district program skit with another Polk Club. Some of the club took (over a period of ten years) as many as 50 4-H projects, but the main projects were cooking and home living and sewing. One member scored well in a tractor project. Yard Beautification and Photography were favorites also. The club won first in exhibiting a booth at the county fair and took the booth to state fair. They also rated purple ribbons in song contest and demonstrations at various time. Among the members of the club over the years besides the two Hahn and two Hill girls were Cheryl Bush, Sharon Willits, Donna and Sharon Cohagen, Karen Funk, Jane Fredrickson, Harriet and Vandeline Bush, Bonnie Hanquist, LaVonne Anderson, Gail Giles, Avis Waller, Pamela Kneeland, Irene Ruzicka, Sharon and Shirley Stevens, Joyce Stewart,

Karen Stevens, Cheryl and Marlene Anderson, Linda Gustafson, Genon Stohl, Dianne Sandell, Betty Johnson and Wanda Harding.

Mrs. Burney and Mrs. Anderson, leaders, have both received the 20 year clover leaf pin for leadership and both have received the National 4-H Alumni Award. Natalie Hahn, Mrs. Burney's daughter, also received the National Alumni Award in 1973. The club has received two Freedom Foundation Awards and appeared on television when awards were presented.

Some of the community projects they carried out were helping with Polk Clean-Up the Streets and Alleys Day, painting the Polk cemetery fence, painting the benches in the park, painting rural mail boxes, soliciting for various drives.

POLK MASONIC LODGE NO. 311

One of the older organizations of Polk is the Masonic Lodge.

At their July 1974 meeting, Harry Guidinger was awarded a 50 Year Membership pin. Dwight Burney, who also attends lodge at Polk has a 50 Year Membership pin also.

They meet the second Monday of each month at the Lodge Hall. Present Officers are: Worshipful Master, Carroll Shenk, Senior Warden, Marvin Carlson, Jr. Warden, Verland Widga, Sr. Deacon, Robert Clymer, Jr. Deacon, Paul Anderson, Sec,, Lowell Bills, Treas., Noel Kealiher, Chaplain, Roger Gustafson, Sr. Stewart Morris Nielsen, Jr. Stewart, Don Lampshire, Tyler, Don Shoup.

A group of men of this community, being desirous of establishing a Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in Polk, met on the evening of May 10, 1920, to find out and consider what must be done to bring about such an organization.

Brother Ira L. Freet of York had been summoned and was present. He outlined the steps to be taken. In accordance with a suggestion made by Brother Freet, a committee consisting of Daniel B. Carter and John R Leibee was appointed and authorized to correspond with the Grand Secretary relative to the securing of the necessary blanks on which to make application to work Under Dispensation.

After securing the blank for application to work Under Dispensation, the committee called a meeting on July 12, of the prospective members and caused the blank to be signed.

The following brethern were chosen by ballot to serve as officers under the dispensation: I. Donald Huston, Master; William H. Pollack, Senior Warden and John R. Leibee, Junior Warden.

Upon motion the committee was instructed to send the application to Stromsburg Lodge, #126, A. F. & A. M., the nearest chartered Lodge, for their recommendation. On August 24, 1920, in regular communication Stromsburg Lodge voted to recommend to the Grand Lodge the petition, Polk having met all conditions required by law of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A.M. of Nebr. This application was accepted and we were informed to secure the services of a Deputy Custodian to get us ready for the examination to be held before the 31st. day of December 1920. We secured Brother Freet who coached us in the esoteric work. After this examination and his recommendation to the Grand Master, Hon. Joseph B. Fradenburg, issued a Dispensation under date of January 4, A.L. 5921.

Working Under Dispensation for approximately one year, the Polk Lodge #311 A. F. & A.M. was constituted July 21, 1921, by Grand Master Lewis E. Smith, assised by Charles M. Sheppard, Grand Chaplin; Robert E French, Grand Custodian, and other officers of the Grand Lodge. The Charter was signed by the following: I. Donald Huston, William H. Pollock, John R Liebee, Titus A. Lundberg, Isaac T. Samuelson, Harry L. Shaffer, Arnold K. Crow, William P Miller, Eddie W Larson, William A Wurtz; Frank L. Wilcox, Albert A Sundberg, Alex Lind, David F. Anderson, Zenas F Myers, Harry A. Johnson, Oscar F. Dahlin, John I. Anderson, Harry R. Harris, Harlan F. Frasier, Charles W Flick, Neil T. Rakestraw, William A. J. Ice, Abner E. Wilcox, Ernest F. Graff, Raymond L. Cox, Theodore Larson, C Raymond Peterson, R. Leonard Smith, Phillip Sack Jr., Richard H. Thesing, David N. Carlson, Leonard C. Wallin.

Among the present members who are 32nd Degree Lodge members (Shriners) are Kenneth Stewart, Marvin Fredrickson, Glen Babcock, Floyd Miller (son of W P. Miller) Lowell Bills, Leslie Adelson. Dwight Burney is 32nd KCCH

Harry Guidinger Receives 50-Year Lodge Pin

Left to right: Albert Guidinger, Craftman Lodge No. 314, Lincoln, Nebr., Harold C. Wurdenman, Grand Marshal of Nebraska, Brother Harry Guidinger, Leo Stines, Grand Senior Warden of Nebraska and Worshipful Master Carroll Shenk of Polk Lodge No. 311.

GLENN HILL

Pleasant Homemakers 4H Club

Polk Group In Washington With Senator Curtis

Included in the group above are:

Members of the 4-H Club: Bonnie Hanquist, Gail Giles, Janie Fredrickson, Diane Sandell, Cheryl Bush, Avis Waller, Linda Gustafson, Karen Stevens, Natalie Hahn, Genon Stohl, Irene Ruzicka, Velma Jane Adams; also

Mesdames Parker Aker, Oscar Sundberg, H. Horstman, Laura Bolton, Gerald Stevens, Vergil Bush, Wallace Sandell, Marvin Fredrickson, Glenn Knerr, Irvin Anderson, Nettie Carlson, Lester Rehrs, Wilford Stephens, Oscar Gustafson, Lawrence Sundberg, Ben Peterson, Lloyd Hahn and Miss Lillie Chindgren and Senator Curtis.

POLK NEWS

By Grayce Hahn

Once in a while a writer deviates from the usual practice of reporting weddings, funerals, birthday gatherings and routine news. I've enjoyed hearing of other trips, so I'd like to tell you about the 4-H-sponsored bus trip, a group from Polk took to Washington, D. C., New York and Niagara Falls. I'm full of memories and write this with a hope that some day you too will be inspired by being able to see the historic beauty of the East.

I hope you feel that this "blow by blow" description has a bit of a "glow by glow" appeal.

Our trip east really had its beginning five years ago. Having just returned from Washington, I thought, "Gee, if I only could have seen this when I was young, "dead" history would have been so much more alive. So my sister, Mrs. Irvin Anderson and myself started planning.

Two years ago, plans began taking shape — our 4-H club which we've led for years, started earning money, selling everything from soup to nuts — having an agricultural booth at the state fair, a stand at Polk's 50th anniversary. The mothers of the members were wonderful helpers. Our goal: $1000 to pay the girls' way — mothers, leaders, grandmothers and friends, on their own.

On June 3rd, we took off — Greyhound charter bus, thirty strong bus — painted "4-H Club Polk, Nebraska." That sign brought gawks and honks. At Arlington cemetery, a young man from Osceola, Nebr., came huffing and puffing up to us. "Been trying to catch you all over the cemetery. Read about your trip—wanted to say hello."

We went to Chicago where some of you heard us on Don McNeil's program. Mildred Anderson said we leaders were "kid herders." Verna Fredrickson, our mayor's wife told of when Janie was two she knocked her tooth out (that is Janie's it says with Mr. Curtis, he gave up his own four and rounded up six more so all thirty heard and saw Ike, viewed Mamie, Dick and Pat Nixon and many cabinet members. "I even took Ike's picture." said one member.

They saw all the usual tourist attractions at Washington — they felt free and relaxed. They got around easily, but at New York, girls held on to mama's hand — they were plumb scared. Karen Stevens said "I sure like it lots better back on the farm."

They had a contest to pick a name for themselves, Cloverleaf Travelers being the final choice. The bus driver was young, unmarried. He submitted the name Noisy Nuts and even Genon Stohl ,until now, doesn't know that the judges ganged up on her. She said she'd give a fifth prize of a kiss for the best name and the judges took her up. All the lassies were "making eyes" at Tom and mothers heard "Sit at the other table — leave this seat vacant — Tom might eat with us."

The group had a hard time deciding what they liked best on the trip, which listed over 100 things heard about or read of in history books. Niagara Falls, Mt. Vernon, Washington Monument, Congress in session, Arlington cemetery, Pentagon, Supreme Court, Times Square, United Nations, Statue of Liberty, Empire State, Music Hall, Broadway, Fifth Avenue, just to mention a few.

Of course there were lots of fun moments and things happened that were of the type as Mrs. Marvin Fredrickson said "I'll never have so much fun or laugh as much."

Will mention just a few — Beulah Gustafson's almost NOT getting out of a N. Y. subway, all the 4-H gals liking to eat in the automat (put the nickels in and presto! Food), the Billy Graham choir at Madison Square Garden and seeing over 1000 persons "come forward." Mrs. Ben Peterson didn't like paying $1.60 for four cokes in New York. The waiter said the amount covered music and cover charge — Nell just called it overcharge, and Violet Sundberg's pleasant surprise in finding the cafeterias and also shopping, so reasonable in Washington. For the most part, eating and sleeping were reasonable but once in a while we got took. Irene Ruzicka got a shock when the cafeteria rang up $2.10 for her pickup lunch one day in New York.

We'll always recall the pleasantness of finding out that one of the twelve men who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, is from Nebraska, lived at Sidney and knew Ray Cruise, our former county agent.

Lillie Chindgren and Mrs. Glenn Knerr had a most pleasant surprise too when they took a taxi home after shopping and the driver said in answer to their "how much," "Nothing. I don't charge out-of-town folks anything. Of course no one will forget the mouse looked real but wasn't that Cheryl Bush tossed around; the scream Julia Sundberg let out when she accidently turned the wrong knob in front of her bathtub and turned on the shower, all over herself — she was a wet duck. Then there was Emma Horstman and her rubber candy. She bought a nice box of chocolates to treat — then carefully planted the "looks like, but ain't tasty bits. Then too there was the Jew in New York who said "Rubber necks." Yes, we did gaze at the skyscrapers.

Natalie Hahn and a few others got Dorothy Killigan's autograph after the TV show "What's My Line" which we viewed. Mildred Anderson and others thought it fun to find their traveling companion on the subway between Capitol and Senate was Estes Kefauver. Karen Stevens said "I'm going to frame this pen, Senator Curtis signed my autograph book with it. Diane Sandell has the record for doing the best job of sleeping standing up. We liked the turnpikes, no bill boards; we didn't taste the goat milk fudge advertised as a speciality, but we laughed to the music accompaniment of pop bottles rolling around whenever we were on a good singing spree.

The manager of the tourist home where we stayed in Washington said "Wish all groups were as nice as this 4-H group— they go to bed at night.

Ah yes, this was a memorable trip. My biggest thrill? Well, I think seeing the happiness radiate on the faces of the 4-H girls and adults.

POLK 4-H CLUBS TO BE ON TELEVISION AT OMAHA

Two 4-H Clubs of Polk have been asked by Wes Antes, State 4-H Club Leader and Mal Hanson of radio station WOW to be on Tuesday noon, March 9, television show which is shown at 12:30, noon. Mr. Hanson is in charge of the show.

The group were called Tuesday from Lincoln to re-enact their prize winning 4-H skit, "The 4-H Story," which won for them top honors in "Share the Fun Contest" in Polk County and a blue rating at the district contest at David City.

The Pleasant Homemakers, led by Mrs. Irvin Anderson and Mrs. Lloyd Hahn, and the Jolly Juniors, led by Mrs. Harold Green and Mrs. Ivan Cramer, will be on the show. About twelve Polk youngsters will be in the act

These girls are members of the Pleasant Homemakers 4-H Club of Polk county. Many of them are youth members of Polk County Farm Bureau families. They plan a summer visit to the eastern U. S. They are shown on the float which they entered in Polk's anniversary celebration parade.

Polk to Observe 40th Anniversary Of 4-H Work

POLK (Special) — The 40th year of 4-H work in Polk County will be suitably observed Oct. 21 at the 12th annual 4-H leaders banquet given by the bankers of the county.

A program, "This Is Your Life, 4-H," written by Mrs. Lloyd Hahn, will be presented.

Gary Gary, county agent, will show color slides of 4-H activities this year and in past years.

Warren Johnson of Stromsburg will be master of ceremonies, and Eldon Johnson of Polk will give the welcome.

To Receive Freedom Foundation Award

Robert Simmons, Chief Justice of Nebraska Supreme Court has asked a representative of the Pleasant Home Makers to appear on a television show at WOW, Omaha, Wednesday, June 11, at

MEET THE TEENS
Edited By
Iores Prinz, West Point

Nebraska farmer

Marilyn Hahn with President Eisenhower

A PRETTY co-ed on the Wesleyan campus is Marilyn Hahn. As a May graduate of Polk High School, she won a valedictorian scholarship to this university, and is enrolled in the Journalism and Arts course.

Her 4-H work for the past nine years gave her an excellent preparation for college. She served as assistant club leader for two years.

She has a hobby of collecting key chains. Her collection of 200 is mounted on plywood with cup screws. Each one is carefully labeled telling where or from whom it was received. Her chains come from 25 different states, Canada and Panama.

She considers one of the highlights of her life having her picture taken with President Eisenhower when he was in Lincoln on July 3, 1952.

4 H Demonstrators 1947 Polk Co. Fair

Polk's Newest and Finest Roy Glasser Home

Bandstand

Hotel Building

ARBORVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

In 1874, Rev. C.S. Harrison laid out the village of Arborville. He was a pioneer missionary and nursery man and lined the streets with trees. A different kind of tree was planted along each street and the street was known by the name of the tree that bordered it. Then he named the whole town a most appropriate name - Arborville.

In 1876 the First Congregational Church of Arborville was organized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D.S. Twichell. Some of the charter members were Jacob Gray, Clayton Burgess, Samuel Flick, J.L. Dorsey, C.E. Merchant, John Bilinger, J.W. Kingston, E.C. Smith, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, Dr. Ensign and W.H. Fairchild. The first church was built in 1877 and Rev. Harrison was pastor for one year. He was followed by Rev. W.S. Hampton.

The Arborville Union Sunday School was organized soon after the church. Mrs. F.N. Recknor, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, C.E. Merchant, J.W. Kingston and M.E. Bedient were among those active in the early Sunday School.

The first Missionary Society was organized in 1885 with six women and the pastor's wife as members. There was an active Christian Endeavor Society formed and two young men became ministers of the gospel, Charles Fisher and Victor Swanson.

The congregation built a new church in 1903 and has continued ever since. The present church has a membership of 53 and Rev. Richard Bauer is the pastor. This church will observe its Centennial in 1974. They have an active choir, Sunday School, Cradle Roll, Bible Youth, Youth Fellowship and Ladies Missionary Society. Mrs. Fred Bedient is president of the Missionary Society and Mrs. W.L. Blender and Pastor Bauer are counselors for the Youth Fellowship. Mrs. Hillis Sterner is S.S. Superintendent.

The Arborville Ministerial Roll is as follows - C.S. Harrison, W.S. Hampton, T.H. Ayars, John Rayman, S.S. Haines, J.W. Young, J. Morley, D.E. French, J.E. Storm, G.W. Mitchell, E.B. Dean, J.A. High, N.E. Gardner, W.W. Hart, William B. Payne, George Martin, D.E. French, J.B. Stocking, O.L. McCleery, D.M. Rickett, J.M. Finch, G.W. Brownback, S. Harvey, C.D. Throckmorton, R.F. Scott, R.S. McCutcheon, P. H. Smith, Elmer R. Peterson, Sam Lee, L.L. Gotchall, Marlin Bedient, J.C. Nyrop, C.D. Hayes, Kenneth Hick, F.V. Mann, Edgar Reed, E. Earle Eaton, Paul Nelson, Lindly J. Cook. Richard Bauer is the present pastor.

At one time there was also a Methodist Church in Arborville about a block from the present Congregational Church. Rev. J.D.M. Buckner was an early Arborville Methodist minister. The Baptist organization held meetings in the Arborville town hall.

POLK BAPTIST CHURCH

The Polk Baptist Church, originally called The Pleasant Home Baptist Church was organized on February 16, 1884 at the Benjamin schoolhouse, northwest of Polk with 12 members. These charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lindburg Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Gust Lindburg, Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Heivett, William and Amel Lindburg, Lydia Foster, Ida Cole, and Rev. and Mrs. J.D. Staff. A son of William Lindburg, M.G. Lindburg, has been on the church board for 40 years. Rev. Staff was minister and held meetings each Sunday for two years. He was followed by Rev. A.T. Heath, Rev. O.A. Buzzell, and Rev. J.W. Lewis.

Rev. J.M. Bay became pastor in 1892. Meetings were held at the schoolhouse and also at the town hall at Arborville. A Sunday School was organized at each place. Ninety members were added to the church during Rev. Bay's pastorate.

On October 6, 1893 a new church building was dedicated at a cost of $1500. It was located 2 miles north of Polk across from the Laclede cemetery. The name was changed to Laclede Baptist Church. The following April windstorm blew the frame building off its foundation. As 1893 was a poor crop year and 1894, a complete crop failure, due to drought and grasshoppers, it was a difficult task to raise the money for the repairs. But it was accomplished and later a six room parsonage was built.

In the fall of 1906, just a few months after the first town lots in Polk were sold, the parsonage and church were moved to its present location. It became known as the Polk Baptist Church. Rev. A.V. Dahl was the pastor.

The present brick building was erected in 1912 at a cost of $20,000. Rev. J.W. Benjamin was pastor. A lovely pipe organ was installed in 1915. The parsonage was built two years later. The interior of the church

was badly burnt in 1919, but was soon remodeled and another pipe organ installed. New carpeting and padded pews were added in 1971. The basement rooms have also been remodeled. There is a church membership of 167. They are affiliated with the Baptist General Conference and have been active in all phases of God's work.

The church continues to be missionary minded. Mr. Herman Benjamin a former Polk Baptist minister's son, was a missionary to India for many years. They have an active ladies' organization called The Women's Missionary Society and Mrs. Wallace Sandell is president with approximately 40 members. The Baptist Young People's organization, known as Conference Youth Fellowship has carried on through the years.

Pastors since Rev. J.M. Bay (who retired in Polk) have been Rev. R.R. Coon, Rev. Boyer, Rev. T.D. Davis, Mrs. R.H. White, Rev. J.S. Rasmussen, Rev. George L. White, Rev. A.V. Dahl, Rev. F.R. Brown, Dr. C.J. Pope (for 3 months), Rev. F.W. Benjamin, Rev. A.H. Nickell, Rev. Claude Neal, Rev. C.H. Skinner, Rev. J.L. Headbloom, Rev. R.M. Bailey, Rev. Edick Anderson, Rev. Paul Lemke, Rev. Paul Nelson (supply pastor), Rev. Elwood Anderson, Howard Sandburg, Rev. Paul White, Rev. and Mrs. Wilbur Drown of Central City (supply pastors), Rev. Nels Nelson, Rev. Elmer Logan, Rev. Gene Wood and the present pastor, Rev. Irving Stouffer.

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

The Evangelical Free Church of Polk began with a group of meetings in homes and school buildings for Christian fellowship. Then a church was erected in 1900 on the Nels Nyberg Sr. farm, north of Polk. Mr. Nyberg donated the land for the church site. These people were of Swedish descent and their first church was called "The Swedish Free Mission Church of Pleasant Home". (Pleasant Home was the name of the precinct).

The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nyberg Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sundberg, Mr. and Mrs. David A. Sundberg, Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Gustafson, C.G. Nelson and P.J. Ahlgren. Rev. Richard Beckman was the first minister, receiving $20 a month.

After Polk was started the organization moved there and the present church structure at a cost of $3000 was built. It was dedicated on February 7, 1909. The first minister here was Rev. Frank Abrahamson. Through the years the church has been remodeled and new pews and carpeting installed. Rev. William Weslund served the church for 12 years - the longest of any pastor. Rev. Phillip Thenovall is the present minister. The church has supply pastors serving the approximately 50 members. The name has been changed to Evangelical Free Church.

Eric Forslund was instrumental in organizing the early Sunday School and was among the first superintendents. Today there are active Women's Organization, Brotherhood, Youth Group, Sunday School and Choir. Mrs. Clarence Rodine, organist and Mrs. Rudolph Nyberg, pianist have served many years. The former's father, Henry Sundberg organized the choir of the Mission Church in 1909.

The church has sent out several missionaries and ministers, namely, Rev. Hugo Rodine, missionary and for many years Foreign and Home Missionary Secretary for Free Churches of America, Rev. Henry Nyberg, minister and Army Chaplain, Rev. Glenn Nelson, Rev. Paul Nelson, Rev. Edgar Nelson, Helen Nyberg (home missionary) and Elaine Nyberg Ascanio, and Marvin Ang, missionaries to South America.

The ladies organization is headed by Mrs. Harold Carlson. The group helps support two missionaries and has about 30 members.

EVANGELICAL FREE CAMP NEAR POLK

The Polk Evangelical Free Church is active in helping maintain and promote the church camp 2½ miles southeast of Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. William Tallman are full time managers and live near the camp which has a number of cabins and two large buildings, one for cooking, the other for the meetings.

About 199 can be accomodated in the cabins, - about 200 in the air conditioned sanctuary. Each year in August Family Camp is held. Mrs. Leland Harless and Mrs. Ed Erickson, assisted by several young girls of the Polk Church help with cooking duties.

The camp has a swimming pool, minature golf course, ball field, badminton and volley ball court.

FREE METHODIST CHURCH

The Free Methodist Church was organized in 1895 in the Frog Pond Schoolhouse, southwest of Polk with only five members. These were Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. Peterson (parents of Mrs. William A. Stevens and Mrs. Walter A. Binford), Mrs. Aquila Cohagen, Mrs. Sophia Jones and Rev. J.H. Anderson. It became known as the Low Prairie Free Methodist Church. Pastors who served at this church were Rev. C.H. Sawyer, Rev. Adrian K. Main, Rev. R.F. Johnson and Rev. J.H. Anderson.

In 1909 the Free Methodist Church was built on the eastern edge of Polk largely through the efforts of Mr.

and Mrs. Alfred A. Peterson and the Low Prairie Circuit was moved to Polk. The first minister to serve this congregation was Rev. W.I. Farnan. Rev. and Mrs. George W. Tinker, who served for many years, later retired at Polk.

In 1952 the church building was moved to Central City, Nebraska and its members joined with the Central City congregation. Later this Free Methodist charge was discontinued and the church building is owned and used by the Central City Evangelical Free Church.

Some of the other pastors who have served the Polk congregation were Rev. F.W. Drown, Rev. C.H. Sawyer, Rev. F.E. Eaton, Rev. E. Smith, Rev. David Reck, Rev. Atwell T. Smith, Rev. A.C. Snow, Rev. Dixon and Rev. Montzingo.

Although this congregation was small in numbers they were faithful and conscientious workers for the Lord.

POLK TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Polk Trinity Lutheran Church is the most recently organized church in Polk. The first morning service of this organization was held at the Polk Community Hall on April 24, 1955 and was officially organized on September 11, 1955.

A church building at Hordville was purchased and moved to Polk. The interior was completely redecorated and remodeled by the members.

The church was dedicated in November 1956 by Rev. W.R. Saas. Rev. Barni A. Barnell was the first installed pastor.

Polk Trinity Lutheran Church is combined with the Benedict charge and the one minister serves both charges.

They have 87 members, eighteen of whom have served in the Armed Forces. They have an active Woman's Organization and youth group.

Ministers who have served this charge are Lutheran Church ministers.

WILLIAM GARLING- Age 90

He made the first altar at the Trinity Lutheran Church

POLK'S CHURCHES THROUGH THE YEARS

The Polk community has always been church minded. The first year of its existence found three churches, Mission, Methodist and Baptist in the village. A fourth, the Free Methodist was built in 1909. The latter has since been moved to Central City in 1952 and the Trinity Lutheran replaced it in number.

POLK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Polk United Methodist Church was originally called the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was organized in 1878 in the Cooper school building then located at the present Polk cemetery site. For sixteen years a circuit minister preached here on Sunday afternoons. Then in 1894 a church was built here, the school building being moved across the road. This church was commonly known as the Cooper Methodist Church as N.P. Cooper, who lived just west of the cemetery donated the land for it. Built at a cost of $2,200, it was dedicated on February 4, 1894 by Elder Rev. A.C. Braithwaite. The first minister was Rev. J.A. Larkin, father of Mrs. Bert Darrow.

The first Methodist church in Polk, moved in from Cooper cemetery in about 1907.

Some of the early workers in this pioneer church were Mr. and Mrs. James Sealey, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Putman, Mr. and Mrs. James Honess, Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Donley, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel McConnell, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Eckles, Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Hahn, Mr. and Mrs. A.O. Talbot, Mrs. Catherine Van Horn, John Clark, Mrs. Alice Benjamin, W.H. Banghart, Mr. and and Mrs. N.P. Cooper and Mr. and Mrs. Jamier Stevens.

When Polk was founded in 1906 the church was moved to its present location and became known as the Polk Methodist Episcopal Church. The parsonage at Arborville was purchased in 1908 and moved into Polk. It has since been remodeled.

During the pastorate of Rev. Clinton Senneff, the present church edifice was built at a cost of $21,000. The cornerstone was laid on May 6, 1917 and the church was dedicated on October 28, 1917 by District Superintendent Dr. J.W. Embree. Joseph C. McClure was the building committee chairman.

Many people have faithfully served as officials of the church. At the time of the 25th church Anniversary on November 22, 1942, the trustees were Albert Sundberg, William A. Stevens, Oscar Strand, William Kroger, P.J. Garten, Arnold Isaacson, Lloyd Kroger, Joseph C. McClure and Charles Whittemore. Rev. A.C. Bates was pastor.

Sunday School, Youth Organizations and the choir have always played integral parts in the Polk Methodist Church. Sunday School classes were held at the Cooper schoolhouse in 1873 - five years before the church was organized with an average attendance of 30.

The Ladies Aid and Women's Missionary Societies of former years were united into one organization in 1940 and called it the Woman's Society of Christian Service. Mrs. Oscar Sundberg was president. In 1968 the name was changed to Women's Society of Christian Service and Mrs. Arlo Stevens was the new president. In October 1973 this group became the United Methodist Women with Mrs. Leslie Adelson as president. The president in 1974 is Mrs. Rolland Stromberg. Membership is 65. The church parlors have recently been paneled and carpeted, and the kitchen remodeled.

Standard Bearers, a H.S. group of girls interested in Missions and King's Heralds and Light Bearers, a Junior Mission group were active organizations. The latter group was led by Mrs. Glenn Hill and Mrs. Irvin Anderson for 20 years. Present youth organizations are the Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship, led by Mrs. Harold Anderson and the Methodist H.S. Youth Fellowship with Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Stevens as counselors.

Joseph C. McClure, Karl Dethloff, and Mrs. Catherine Pulman had long time records as Sunday School teachers. Mrs. Irvin Anderson has taught Sunday School for over 52 years. Mrs. Conrad Lindholm is the present S.S. Superintendent and Mrs. James Lindburg is Junior Superintendent. Rev. Robert Hopkins is now pastor.

The church has grown from a few pioneer families to the present membership of 210. In 1970 the Polk Methodist Church joined with the Marquette Methodist Church with one minister, Rev. John Kim, a Korean, serving both charges. Prior to this the Swede Plain Church and Polk Methodist had shared the same minister for 35 years. At one time the Polk and Arborville churches had the same pastor. An 80th Anniversary book was published in 1958 with Mrs. Dwight Burney, Chairman.

Recently the Methodist Church of America and the United Brethren Church of America were united under the same name of the United Methodist Church. Thus the church name in 1974 is Polk United Methodist Church.

Ministers serving the Polk Methodist Church from 1878 - 1974 are as follows: Rev. J.A. Larkin 1878; Rev. A. Babcock 1878-1880; Rev. D.M. Buckner 1880-1887; Rev. J.R. Trett 1887-1880; Rev. E.W. McMillen 1889-1890; Rev. L. Morrison 1890-1891; Rev. S.M. Campbell 1891-1892; Rev. William Bowley 1892-1893; Rev. D.M. Buckner 1893-1895; Rev. H.G. Claycomb 1895-1897; Rev. S.T. Hawkins 1897 - 1899; Rev. M.R. Crisp 1899 - 1902; Rev. E.S. Burr 1902 - 1903; Rev. J.S.G. Carroll 1903 - 1904; Rev. J.A. Larkin 1907-1908; Rev. Will T. Walker 1908-1909; Rev. John Waits 1909 - 1911; Rev. O.G. Ponath 1911-1913; Rev. Henry Zinnicker 1913-1915; Rev. Clinton Senneff 1915-1917; Rev. H.W. Cope 1917-1919; Rev. B.N. Kunke 1919-1920; Rev. W.T. Randolph 1920-1921; Rev. George M. Carter 1921-1923; Rev. R. Frank Scott 1923-1925; (died while at Polk); Rev. R.S. McCutcheon 1925-1928; Rev. E.R. Peterson 1928-1935; Rev. E.E. Pengelly 1935 - 1939; Rev. S.W. Longacre 1939-1941; Rev. A.C. Bates 1941-1949; Rev. Paul Walker 1949-1952; Rev. Milton O'Connor 1952-1954; Rev. W.C. Birmingham 1954-1957; Rev. Douglas Fraley 1957-1958; Rev. James Lane 1958-1960; Rev. O.A. Johnson 1960-1964; Rev. Harold Jensen 1964-1966; Rev. Willis Patten 1966 - 1968; Rev. Deryl Reed 1968-1970; Rev. John J.T. Kim 1970-1974; Rev. Robert Hopkins 1974- .

SWEDE PLAIN METHODIST CHURCH

Mr. C. O. Norton, an early homesteader was instrumental in getting this Swedish Methodist Church or anized as at the first the church was linked with Saronville and the pastor, John Linn came once a month to Swede Plain. The first meetings were in a sod house south of the present church building and later held in the school building erected where the church stands. In 1877 regular meetings were held with John Linn the first pastor staying at the C. O. Norton home. The minister received $5 each month for his services.

Swede Plain and West Hill were later put on the same circuit and Rev. Swan became pastor staying two weeks at each place. Rev. Swan is credited with giving the name "Swede Plain" to this charge. He also stayed with the Nortons. New members added were Mr. and Mrs. Beter Bergman, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Flodman, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Moberg and Mrs. Westman.

The schoolhouse District 65 was moved a mile west and the church was built on the site. Olof Norine and wife deeded the land and the church was erected for approximately $1500. The dedication was in the fall of 1887.

Later two horse barns were added to the grounds. J. A. Gabrielson and J. B. Anderson were pastors from 1886-1889.

From 1890 to 1900 ministers serving the church resided in Stromsburg preaching there in the forenoon on Sundays and at Swede Plain in the afternoons. In 1901 the parsonage was built across the road south. Olof Granberg was the first minister to live in it. This parsonage was torn down in 1963.

Swede Plain was affiliated with the Polk Methodist Church for many years, the same pastor serving both charges. For the last several years they are with the Stromsburg Methodist Church with Rev. Robert Holbrook as present pastor. They have 92 members. Alvena Lind is the Sunday School Superintendent.

Swede Plain has an active U.M.W. organization with Mrs. Robert Clymer as president. They have a monthly family night social, an active choir group and youth fellowship organization. Mrs. Verland Widga and Mrs. Robert Clymer, are youth counselors.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first Lutheran families settled in this part of Nebraska in 1873. Since there was no Lutheran Church in this vicinity, these Lutheran families joined the Zion Church near Hampton. The Lutheran mission near Polk was started in 1879 when the Rev. G.F. Burger of Lincoln Creek was asked to conduct services in this vicinity. Since this small mission had no church property, services were held in nearby district schools. At first the members took turns bringing cobs to heat the school building for the services in the winter time.

A few months later, Immanuel Congregation was organized with 12 voting members and 51 others. The 12 charter members were Ernest Nierman, John Wilshusen, Charles Nierman, Henry Wilshusen, Henry Meyer, Ferdinand Ueckert, Oetic Deukef, Rudolph Rechenberger, Henry Blase, Carl Heller, Henry Luecht and John Meyer. The first officers of the congregation were: Elder Ernest Nierman, Secretary John Wilshusen, Trustee Carl Heller.

That same year, Immanuel Congregation bought 40 acres of land as the first church property. In 1881, the first church was built, a modest structure adequate at the time, which measured 24 x 40 ft.

In 1885 Rev. O. J. Kepple was extended a call which he accepted. In the fall of the same year the first parsonage was built. In 1912 our present parsonage and teacherage were built.

The congregation decided to open a Christian Day school. The pastors taught during the first years of the school's existence. Miss J. Rademacher was the first lady teacher from 1892-1895.

On February 5th 1960 the present school structure was dedicated. Rev. Marvin Gruitt performed the rite of dedication. Immanuel congregation had purchased the High Prairie high school building near Polk on October 4, 1960 and reconstruction began October 18. In 1974 two teachers, Mr. Don Stuebgen and Mrs. Kennel are teachers. A gym in the basement allows Immanuel children the opportunity to have basketball and volleyball teams and participate with fellow conference teams in sports.

The church has several organizations. The Ladies Aid was organized on January 6, 1909 with 20 members. Present officers are: President Mrs. Raymond Sagehorn, Vice President Mrs. Gary Sagehorn, Secretary Mrs. Morris Fisher, Treasurer Mrs. Lavern Schulze, Committee Secretary Mrs. Wayne Person.

The young people organized a Walther League in 1934. The Couples Club as its known as now was organized in 1950 with 28 members. It was originally a mens club whose purpose was to encourage one another to take a active part in the work of the local congregation to assist in promoting growth in Christian knowledge to further Christian fellowship and to cooperate with the National Lutheran Laymens League in the attainment of its aims. Present officers are: President Gordon Johnson, Secretary and Treasurer Mrs. George Wochner. Roll Call Secretary Raymond Sagehorn.

Rev. S. C. Stohlmann is our present pastor. Officers of the congregation are: Chairman Carl Mundt, Secretary Duane Blase, Elders LaVern Schulze, Ed Dobberstein, Wayne Person.

School Board members are Gordon Johnson, Marvin Schulze, Sherman Wilshusen and trustees Carl Blase, Dick Sagehorn and Lawrence Hoffman.

Ministers through the years have been: Rev. P. J. Kipple was the first minister (13 pastors served in 90 years), Rev. J.G. Long (started school), Rev. W. Mahler, Rev. W. F. Seesko, Rev. Wm. Butzke (1991-1936), Carl Jurgenson, A.C. Warneke, Rev. C.W. Long, Rev. Herman H. Hopman, C. A. Gruebner, Walter Synatsck, Marvin Gruett, Joseph S. Hu, Gustav Kreft, Rev. Stephen Stohlmann 1971 to present.

There are 210 baptized members and about 145 communicant members. The church will be 95 years old in 1975.

J.N. Norton Homestead

Nebraska Notes—

'Thievery' at Polk Pastor's Home Ends in Anniversary Party

Polk—The Rev. and Mrs. Paul Lemke returned from church and found their pressure cooker—and the dinner within—missing.

Looking for further evidence of thievery, they found a note telling them to go to the Henry Horstman home.

At the Horstman residence they found a meal ticket which directed them to the Ed Larson home.

At the Larsons they found a group of friends waiting to help them celebrate their wedding anniversary. The Rev. Mr. Lemke is pastor of the Baptist Church.

Nebraska Notes—

Polk Pastor's Wife Pinch Hits While He Is in Hospital

Polk—It isn't every pastor who has a wife that can fill his shoes when he's ill.

But Mrs. A. C. Bates is doing a fine job as "minister" of the Methodist Church here while the Rev. Mr. Bates is in a Lincoln hospital. He recently underwent an operation.

Mrs. Bates is a former deaconess.

Father of New Baby Has Three Other Worries at His Home

Polk—The Rev. M. E. Olson may have had the inclination to fulfill all the requirements of the worried-expectant-father-a t-h o spital routine, but he couldn't permit himself much time.

His wife recently gave birth to a son at Stromsburg hospital. The Rev. Mr. Olson couldn't spend much time there, either before or after the event.

He was too busy at home caring for their other children—Eugene, Marilyn and Milford.

They have the chicken pox.

Polk—Father may bring home the bacon but mother sometimes does a good job of supplementing the family's larder.

Mrs. W. M. Willert, wife of the Polk Superintendent of Schools, aids by raising chickens—in their basement.

"I've only lost four out of a hundred," boasts Mrs. Willert. "Last year we had friers by Mother Day."

Polk Church-Goers Not Pixilated—Minister Is Twin

Dec 5 1957

POLK (Special) — People attending the Polk Methodist Church Sunday thought they were seeing double.

The Rev. Douglas Fraley, pastor, entered the pulpit from the study, and at the same instant, he walked down the aisle with his wife and took his seat. Or so it looked to the congregation.

The person walking down the aisle was the pastor's identical twin brother, Don, a Minnesota lawyer.

While Don Fraley was in the church basement before entering the church, one of the women taking care of the nursery said to him: "You'd better hurry and get your robes on and into the pulpit."

The two Fraleys even wear same type of glasses. The clergyman brother is 15 minutes younger.

They are 26 years old.

POLK

1955

Supt. of school John Johnston says that measles, mumps, flu and tonsilitis have resulted in a total of 163 absences the past week, with measles the chief offender. This story came to light among the small fry: Don Hanquist, Jr., age 8, told his music teacher, Frank Mills, "I won't be to school one of these days, I'm expecting." At the surprised look on Mr. Mills' face, Don went on to explain, "I'm expecting the measles—you know, I've been 'expired' to them."

Farmer-Pastor Dislikes Tardiness But Was Late To His Own Wedding

The pet peeve of Rev. Edick Anderson is tardiness—particularly among churchgoers—but he was late for his own wedding, and that was the most embarrassing experience of his life.

The colorful farmer-preacher who resides near Polk and serves as pastor of the Hordville Baptist church confessed this week that he was "rather flustered" about the wedding episode.

Rev. and Mrs. Anderson were married at the Little Brown church in the Vale at Nashua, Ia., but not on time.

"The car broke down," he explained. "I had to rent another. It rained. The courthouse was closed, and I had to scour the town to find a witness.

"The worst part was that we were supposed to meet a group of 15 at the church."

Rev. Anderson is a native of Polk but spent 30 years in the ministry in Iowa, California and Arizona before returning to Polk in 1943.

In addition to his church and full-scale farming, he likes to do carpentry work when he has the time.

He belongs to the Farm Bureau, the Farmers union, and the Masonic lodge.

One of his sons, Edick, Jr., is at Nurenberg, Germany, as one of the editors of the war crimes documents. The other son, Ralph, is studying at Harvard. A daughter is Mrs. Earl Sorenson, whose twin daughters are the only grandchildren of Rev. and Mrs. Anderson.

It definitely runs in the Lampshire family to be Sunday School superintendents. Gilbert Lampshire, Polk farmer, started his second term this month as Sunday School superintendent of the Polk Methodist church. His sister, Mrs. Emery Peterson, fills the same capacity at the Free Methodist church in Lincoln and his brother, Wesley, is now serving the U. B. church in Lincoln as superintendent and served in the past at the Evangelical Free church also as superintendent. Their father, John Lampshire, has served in that position at the Congregational church in Gardner, S. D., and at the Free Methodist church in Lincoln.

Gov. Crosby Attracts Record Polk Audience

POLK, Neb. (Special)— The presence of Gov. Robert Crosby at Polk High School commencement exercises brought out a crowd of over 700, the largest ever to attend a graduation here.

The governor told the 27 seniors his highest hope for them was to lead Christian lives and establish happy homes. The governor was introduced by Supt. H. E. Warren. He was a guest at the Glenn Hill home.

She's Thankful for Cake Mix Which Solved Church Crisis

Mrs. Roger Gustafson specifically had cake mixes to be thankful for as she attended church at Polk. She and her husband were to be hosts at a fellowship; Mrs. Gustafson baked a cake, put it in the car and as they left for church three-year-old Debbie grabbed a choice handful—right out of the middle. Mrs. Gustafson tossed another box of mix in the car and while the program was in progress popped a cake in the church oven.

Edith Oldershaw, at a dinner at the Sioux Ordnance Depot School for her 45 years of service.

1957

METHODIST MINISTER SEES MOVIE DREAM COME TRUE

Lincoln Star Special

POLK, Neb.—A Polk Methodist minister has seen a wish come true in Hollywood.

The Rev. W. C. Birmingham, minister of the Polk and Swede Plains Methodist churches, asked Cecil B. DeMille to make a new movie of the Ten Commandments. The two men met at Ames, Ia., in 1952 when DeMille was giving an address.

Earlier this year DeMille started production of the Biblical epic and invited the Polk minister to visit him on the set.

The Rev. Mr. Birmingham, who was visiting in California, accepted and spent more than an hour visiting the studio and watching scenes shot for the new movie.

★ ★ Aug 8-1955 ★

Good Flax Crop by Pastor-Farmer

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—The pastor of the Hordville Baptist Church is the only Polk County farmer to raise flax this year—and he raised a good crop.

He seeded it at 10 bushels an acre. He marketed it at $3.99 a bushel.

"The market is good for flax," the Rev. Mr. Anderson said, "as both seed and straw are readily sold. With better weather conditions a yield of 20 to 40 bushels is possible, too."

Polk Girl's Prediction Comes True

POLK (Special) — Karen Miller, third grade student at Polk, is good at predicting. She told her teacher at the Methodist Church two weeks ago not to give her a part in Sunday's program as she "was supposed to get the measles by then."

The teacher smiled, and gave her a part anyway, remarking that she looked strong and healthy and probably wouldn't get them, even when Karen explained she had played with her neighbor girl friend and she had them.

But, come Sunday, Karen wasn't able to be in the program. She came down with the measles. Karen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Miller.

Church Items

POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 72

POLK HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Polk High School graduated it's first senior class in 1914. Since that date, most every year, except for a few years when picnics were held, a banquet during the last week of May has been held. Generally about 200 alumni and spouses attend.

Honor classes are those of each 10 years i.e. 1974-1964-1954-1944-1934-1924-1914, as well as the Golden Anniversary Class. These classes sit together, and often have reunions at a graduate's home to further reminisce. Graduates as far away as California or Washington, D.C. have come to reunions.

Different themes have been used through the years - Political, Hawaii, School Daze, to name a few. This year it will be "Rebuild" as the Grade School burned in December of 1973.

The 50th banquet to be held was in 1964 - when 230 graduates and mates returned.

Marilyn Hahn, an outstanding 4-H member had her picture taken with Dwight Eisenhower when he visited at the Nebraska State Capital.

The name Stevens may go on indefinitely in Polk School. Since 1907 there has been a Stevens in Polk school.

Polk had a lively girls basketball team back in 1922-26. Their games preceded the boys at Polk and away. They also in 1914 had both a girls baseball team and basketball team.

Robert Stromberg of Washington, D.C. is the youngest person to graduate from Polk High School. He was 15 years old.

The largest class to graduate from Polk was in 1934 - 36 members. Smallest class was three in 1916.

Lloyd Widga, Class of 1928 hasn't missed an alumni get-together since graduation.

One Polk High School student, Margaret Merchant, married her favorite teacher, Roger Clough. He is Superintendent of Schools at York.

Perhaps the eight children of W.A. Stevens have a record for staying closest to Polk. At one time all eight (all married) lived within 8 miles of their father. At present, four Stevens sisters reside in Polk, also three Stevens within 8 miles of Polk.

POLK'S SCHOOL DISTRICT 72

Six months after the sale of lots, Polk's public spirited citizens began making plans for a public school.

The Polk School District, No. 72, was organized in Polk at the Alex Scott Implement building on March 31, 1907. It was decided to form this new district from parts of neighboring District 38-59, 45 and 71. District 71 was entirely discontinued and the new district was known as District 72. Schoolboard members elected were Freeman Hahn, director, Dr. D.H. Westfall, moderator and George E. Curtis, treasurer. Wilhelm Rydberg was the superintendent. A 25 mill levy was issued and plans were made for a new school building.

Wesley Wilson, president of the City Improvement Company offered a tract of land for school purposes. It was voted unanimously to locate the new school in the northeast part of Polk near the lot where the Evangelical Free Church now stands. Before any legal action was taken to start building the citizens decided it would take too many good building lots in this section of town. The present location where the grade school stands was suggested. At that time it was low basin ground where ducks migrated. The vote carried for this school site and dirt from new basements and cess pools was dumped here to fill in the land. The grade school building was located here and part of the school ground has since been cemented.

School classes were held in different places until a building could be constructed. An old store building was moved in from Arborville to a site one block west of the present Polk Methodist Church and elementary classes were held here. Other classes met in the upper part of

the Victor Anderson Furniture store and in the basement of the Baptist Church. The school census of 1907-1908 showed 107 pupils of school age. Katherine Bay, Grace Wollard and Effie McKinley were the three teachers. Each received $50 a month for the seven months that school was held. Ameila Rasmussen was the Polk County superintendent.

In 1909 a four room white brick schoolhouse was built on the present grade school site from land purchased from Cass McConnell. This building had two rooms on the first level and two above with a hall and cloakrooms in the cen-

ter. There was both a south and north entrance. There was no central heating unit. A large amount of coal was kept in the basement to supply the stoves in each room. In 1910 there were 109 pupils enrolled in this ten grade school with 29 in high school. School was now held nine months a year with Frank Hawk as School Superintendent. Records show that few pupils living outside of District 72 continued their education beyond the eighth grade. In 1914 Polk School District had its first twelve grade school with 159 pupils enrolled - 33 in high school and 126 in the grades. The tax levy was 32 mills and valuation of the school district was $24,350. The schoolhouse valuation was $2000. Schoolboard members were Amos W. Shafer, Joseph Wochner, John Sjbloom, George Curtis, F.J. Twell and William A. Stevens. 1973 District evaluation - $25,653,000

Six teachers composed the 1914 Polk School faculty. High school teachers were superintendent I.D. Huston, receiving a salary of $100 a month, principal Thomas A. James, getting $85 and Pearl Chase, whose salary was $60 a month. Elementary teachers were Orion E. Jerner, son of Polk's early blacksmith, who taught the 7th and 8th grades, Lula Carson, teaching the 4th, 5th and 6th grades and Kathryn Bay, daughter of an early Baptist minister, Rev. J.D. Bay, teaching the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. They each received $60 a month. Earl Cockle of Arborville came twice a week to teach music in the schools. There was no gymnasium, so basketball was played outdoors, when weather permitted. Very few, if any games were held with other towns. Baseball then, as now was a common sport.

There was an early literary society and Polk High won several honors in debating. On Friday afternoons after the last recess there would be short programs given by the pupils, cyphering or spell downs and many times the time was given to drawing and art work. Penmanship was stressed and a special period each day was devoted to this subject. Many people can recall the Ward's readers, Crabtree spellers, and Palmer penmanship books.

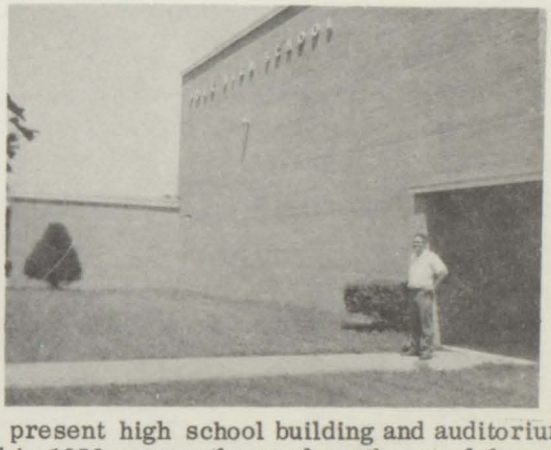
The nine members of the first graduation class in 1914 were Myrtle (Green) Bedient, Norma (Shafer) Horrocks, Zora (Shafer) Cooper, Mae (Tenney) Baker, Carl Jones, Alice (Tewell) Pine, Leah (Dorsey) Roland, Lillian (Anderson) Brown and Carl Steelquist.

In 1917 an addition was added to the south side of the building which included a gymnasium in the basement. Tax levy was increased to 35 mills. Thomas A. James was superintendent, Herman Benjamin, principal and Ruth Munger was the other high school teacher.

In 1937 during the depression years the auditorium and a larger high school assembly room were added to

the west side of the schoolhouse. It was a Federal Works Project built at approximately the cost of $30,000 with a 9.5 mill levy. There was a great controversy over the wisdom of this building project and voters approved of it by only a two vote majority. In spite of drouth, depression, dust storms and tax levy, the $7,000 indebtedness incurred was soon paid off. Basketball fans especially appreciated the convenience of this new gym with the bleachers' seats along the west side. Henry Horstman was the superintendent receiving $1200 that year. William A. Stevens was president of the School board and Olof A. Alfreds was secretary. Other members were Maurice G. Lindburg, Elmer Hanquist, Carl Steelquist and Oscar Sundberg. Attendance was 196 in school that year. The old assembly room was converted into classrooms.

Fifteen years later in 1952 a consolidation of neighboring rural districts with District 72 began. Prior to this District 28 (Frog Pond) had joined with Polk. Now parts or all of 18 districts, some in York and Hamilton counties, comprise the local district. It is approximately 84 square miles in area. Bus transportation began in 1953 and four busses continue now. In 1953 the schoolhouse from District 66 in York County was moved to Polk and situated on the southeast corner of the grade school grounds. Some grade and music classes were held here. It has since been removed.



The present high school building and auditorium was erected in 1959 across the road southeast of the original schoolhouse site at a cost of $293,337.12 with a tax levy of 31 mills. School enrollment was 62 in the high school and 210 in the grade school. Neil McCormick was the first superintendent in the new high school building. School board members at that time were Gerald A. Stevens, Leslie Adelson, Arnold Neuhaus, Floyd Merchant, Lloyd Lind and Willard Adelson.

The Polk High School has ranked high in athletics. Dr. J.R. Liebee was the first football coach in 1921 and 1922

coaching after his office hours. He received no official pay. In 1922 the Polk football team ranked among the first five teams in the state in their class. Basketball was introduced in 1917. In 1926 when Polk was rated a Class B school, Polk's basketball team won the District Tournament. Instead of going to the State Tournament they chose to use the money, provided for them to go to buy much needed football equipment. However, in both 1961 and 1962 Polk's basketball team won the State Meet for Class D schools. A large show case full of trophies in the new high school building shows these honors.

Polk High has won many awards in muscial, homemaking, scholastic and dramatic events. They have had a marching band for many years. Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge honored Polk High School with the George Washington Award for citizenship one year.

A Golden Anniversary book of the Polk High School Alumni Association was printed in 1964 through the efforts of the Anniversary Committee composed of Mildred (Stevens) Anderson, chairman; Myrtle (Green) Bedient, Grayce (Stevens) Burney, Beulah (Stevens) Gustafson, and Norris Alfred.

A school lunch program has been in effect since 1953. Mrs. Laura Bolton was head cook for 19 years. Among other school cooks have been Mrs. Ethel Ostrander, Viola Zieglebien, Mrs. Ruth Bills, Mrs. Margaret Lott, Mrs. Harlan Johnson, Mrs. Minnie Miers, Mrs. Carl Carlstrom, Mrs. Dave Eckdahl and Mrs. Walter Nelson.

Some of the custodians through the years were Joseph C. McClure, Mr. Fleming, George Cohagen, John Johnson, Elmer Anderson, Henry Werth, Harold Miller, Charles Norquest. Present custodians are Reuben Hanquist and Paul Wagner.

In 1963 an attractive teacherage was built west of the grade school and is occupied by the principal and his family. Over 250 Polk High graduates have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Schoolboard members of 1973-74 are Harold Carlson, president; Dale Lindburg, Harold Anderson, Melvin Bender, Dwayne Miller and Roger Hanquist. Serving 20 years on the schoolboard were William A. Stevens and William Lindburg. Their grandsons, Gerald A. Stevens and Dale Lindburg were also members of the Polk Board of Education. Amos Shafer and Herman Brauer served 15 years and Olof A. Alfred had a long term record on the schoolboard.

Donald Shostrom, Dean Samuelson, Mrs. Shirley Wagoner and Ed Erickson are the school bus drivers in 1974. Some of the former drivers were Mrs. Nona Ostberg, Leonard Warnick, Henry Johnson, Rev. Woods and Rev. Koelling.

There have been 1,134 graduates from Polk High School including the Graduation Class of 1973. Polk is now a Class D school with a total enrollment of 207. There are 110 in the senior and junior high school and 97 in the elementary grades. The 1973 School District valuation is $8,978,558.00. The school tax levy is 41 mills. Walter Nielsen is the superintendent and Fred Ritchey, the principal. There are 19 other teachers and Mrs. Marjorie Ehn is school secretary. The annual cost per pupil to maintain the school in 1973 was $1,217.56 in the high school and $1,126.65 for each grade school pupil.

Fire destroyed the elementary school building about 1 a.m. Saturday morning, December 22, 1973. All equipment, books and school records were destroyed. The fire originated in the west gymnasium part and quickly spread to the main part. School classes were resumed January 3rd, 1974 at various places - the kindergarten was in the Evangelical Free Church, the 1st and 2nd were in the basement of the United Methodist Church, the 3rd and 4th in the basement of the Trinity Lutheran Church, the 5th and 6th grades were in the Baptist Church parlors. The 7th and 8th grades and the office of the superintendent were in the Meerkatz house across the street north from the high school. Future school plans are to build a new elementary school in 1974 on the same site. Election bonds for the new school passed by only a few votes against it.

HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS AND PLAQUES

Polk School has won over 100 first place trophies and many second and third place honors. According to a report received from the High School, we list a few of them. Probably the first trophy was won in basketball by the 1922-23 team. It is a large cup-shaped trophy and was recently replated. In the years 1960-1961-1962, Polk was State basketball champions. They were runner-up once.

In the Golden Rod Conference there has been 15 awards in basketball-11 in the district, 16 in the County, 9 in other tournaments and 10 in Intra-mural competition. In invitational track meets there were 10 awards. Five relays and 2 shuttle were also won in track. Polk was State Champion in Track in Class C in 1959 and second in 1960. They have 4 Co. trophies and six relays. They were baseball champs in 1937. Omaha World-Herald All-Sports Champion was received in 1961 and the Lincoln Star Class D Champion in 1961. An Educational honor was received in 1969. Polk Athletic students have brought many honors and trophies home for the school's display case. There are also a number of 2nd and 3rd place honors and other miscellaneous trophies.

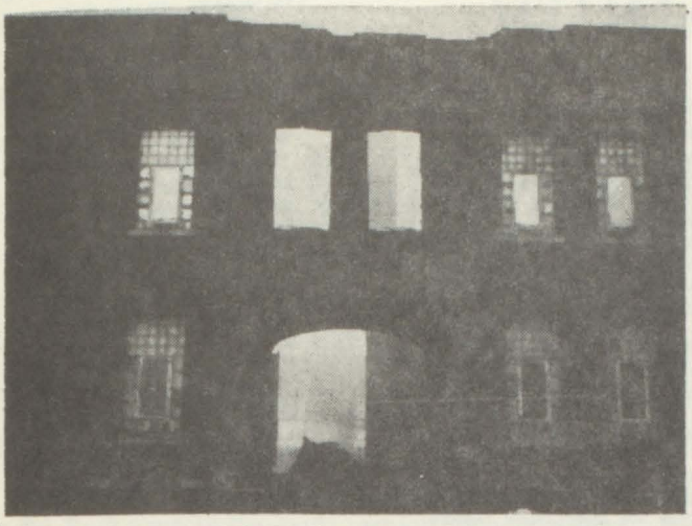
1973-74 TEACHERS

The 1973-74 teachers are Superintendent, Walter C. Nielsen; Principal, Fred Richey; Daniel Gilson, Richard Owens, Daniel Newman, Robert Eddy Jr., Cynthia Mann, Dennis Cyboron, Mary Stevens, Carol Lind, William Holly Bailey, Kathy Calder, high school; Irene Sundberg, librarian; Jean Nielsen, Jr. High; Dianne Andreasen, 6th; Lynelle Fredrickson, 5th; Diane Wurst, 4th; Mildred Sterner, 3rd; Hazel Hill, 2nd; Ilene Good, 1st: Susan Sweet, Kindergarten, Music and Art.

Eighteen Superintendents have served the Polk Schools since 1909.

Frank Hawk
1909-1911
I.D. Huston
1911-1914
Thomas A. James
1914-1916
Grover F. Rost
1916-1919
Lee Tedford
1919-
Ita Bryant
1919-1920
I.D. Huston
1920-1924
J.W. Philbrick
1924-1926
E. Pibel
1926-1928
O.M. Parkinson
1928-1930
Henry Horstman
1930-1941
Robert J. Strickland
1941-1942
Irma Nelson
1942-1943
M.W. Willert
1943-1950
Harvey A. Leamons
1950-1952
H.E. Warren
1952-1954
John R. Johnston
1954-1958
Neal McCormick
1958-1962
Kenneth Sands
1962-1964
Walter Nielsen
1964-

Fire Destroys Polk Elementary School Building



Dec. 1973

Shortly after 1 a.m. Saturday the fire whistle sounded signaling a village fire. The gym addition to the grade school building was a raging inferno. At first there was some hope of containing the fire in that added section to the old school building, but there was no way of fighting the fire from within the cavernous building and the streams of water from Polk's Volunteer Fire Department hoses were inadequate to halt the spread of flames from the gym to the rest of the structure. The fire was too hot.

Fire trucks from Stromsburg, Hordville and Central City responded to the call for help but there wasnt much to be done when they arrived. The fire was well established in the main building and 100 hoses full-stream couldn't have put it out.

Superintendent Walter Nielsen had initial hopes of going to the second floor and removing school records, but the smoke was already too thick. From the gym area the flames burned through the stage and into the hallways and stairways until the inside of building was a mass of flames. The roof of the gym fell in resulting in a tremendous upsurge of flames and sparks. Ralph Redman was standing nearby and said, "When that main roof goes the sparks and flame will be even greater. We better start watching other house roofs."

There was a drift of sparks to the northeast and everyone was thankful for the 10 to 12 inches of snow on roofs and ground. Don Hanquist, directing the fighting, had plenty to do, organizing the fire equipment as it arrived from the other towns. Morris Lindquist, a Polk High School graduate, who lives in Central City and is a member of that fire department, said, "There goes a lot of memories up in flames."

Duane (Shorty) Hahn, another Polk High graduate, and member of the Hordville fire department, said, "What a shame. There's no chance of saving anything out of that building." Sparks were falling thick, plus burning embers, and he moved to check other house roofs.

Roy Snyder, of the Stromsburg fire department, kept telling everyone to move back. "If that wall falls this way, it can reach this far." The roof fell in with a mighty explosion of sparks and shooting flames. A fire truck was stationed two blocks downwind to be ready for any possible house roof fires.

The flames were in full control. The brick walls remained standing with each window framing a mass of flame. Glass brick which had been cemented into the window openings began melting. A top portion of the south wall fell in leaving the row of window openings resting on the remainder of the of the brick wall. Many older high school students will recall this row of windows as making up the south wall of the old assembly room. The area had long since been divided into two classrooms.

Although the night sky was full of stars, rain fell to the northeast of the flaming building. Evidently the heat was condensing moisture out of the cold air. Raindrops could be seen crossing the beam from a spotlight mounted on a fire truck.

Principal Richey was thinking out possible solutions for housing students after the Christmas holidays. The administration and school board would have to begin sorting out alternatives immediately and deciding what to do.

The inside of the building was a mass of flaming rubble. Occasionally there were muffled explosions as cans of custodial materials and paint exploded in the basement.

The original gym—crackerbox, it was called—must have burned like kindling with a wood floor soaked with oil from several decades of cleaning with sweeping compound.

The sparks still went rapidly up into the dark sky and drifted northeast. The fire was subsiding. No one wanted to leave. They stood around in the cold night, watching, fascinated, as the flames continued to consume what had been one of the community's most important buildings. The consensus amongst the watchers—We'll have to build. The sooner the better.

In two hours the fire had destroyed the structure. Firemen gathered up their cold, wet, snow-caked hoses, but nobody cussed the snow. If conditions had been dry and windy . . . that's enough of dire predictions of what might have happened.

It will be some time before the Progress prints school lunch menus. The gleaming kitchen is a mass of rubble.

The Board of Education carried a $211,000 insurance policy on the building and $25,000 on the contents. $271,000

William Stevens Scholarship Established

May 1974

Polk--In memory of their parents, Wm. and Florence Stevens, their children, all residents of Polk area, have established a 50-year, $100 a year Savings Bond scholarship at the Polk High School.

Gale Stevens, a Polk 1974 senior and last of Mrs. Steven's 14 grandchildren and eight children, to be graduated from Polk High, made the first presentation at Honors Night Thursday evening. To be given to the senior ranking highest in English for four years, Melody Albin is the first recipient.

Wm. Stevens served 31 years as a school board director, 20 at Polk School, twelve of the 20 years as president. His grandson Gerald Stevens, was later on the board.

The Stevens children are Mrs. Beulah Gustafson, Mrs. Blanche Sundberg, Mrs. Irvin Anderson, Mrs. Dwight Burney, Paul Stevens, Mrs. Glenn Hill Arlo Stevens, Clyde is deceased.

William Stevens

POLK School

The Grand Island Daily Independent

CENTRAL NEBRASKA NEWS

8 Wednesday, March 15, 1961

Polk Was 'Basketball Crazy' During Winter

(The writer, Mrs. Lloyd Hahn, Polk, has written this article describing the reaction of the home town about the basketball games.)

POLK (Special Dispatch) —How does a small town of 430 feel about its high school basketball boys wining, for the first time in the history of the town a state basketball tournament?

The answer could be summed up in two words, Great, Swell, — but there are a lot of side-lights of citizen loyalty, home talk basketball fever, that would probably be typical of other small towns, but Polk is experiencing it for the first time.

The boys came through the season with a 27 victories, copping the county, district, regional and Saturday the Class D, tournament. Polkites who couldn't make the trek to Lincoln watched the game breathlessly on television.

The town business places were nearly all closed Saturday.

"Open at 3 p.m. gone to the game," was on Polk's only grocery store, owned by Mayor Lloyd Stromberg, on the only elevator, barber shop, the print shop, the cafe, the three filling stations, the two implement houses, as well as Polk's only bank. You might say Saturday business was at a standstill.

The local banker, Ken Stewart, was to have clerked a household goods sale in Polk in the afternoon. He got Dick Anderson of Hordville to clerk the sale. Ken had promised the boys a steak feed and a trip to Omaha Sunday to the hockey game. Ken is a sports enthusiast, — his daughter goes steady with one of the players.

Knute (Eldon) Johnson, in the bank also, got so hepped up over Polk going to state that he chartered a bus for those who didn't want to drive the 150 - mile round trip. Among the bus takers were Mr. and Mrs. Vic Johnson, celebrating their 50th anniversary.

"More fun than having open house" they said.

Many Polkites made the trip to Lincoln all three nights, but there were about a dozen drivers of cars who wished they signed for the bus Thursday night. They got picked up for speeding. It was on highway 66, about five miles east of Polk, and about 1 a.m. They had driven through Lincoln, Seward and York, and past the corner where often a patrol car parks at 66 and 81 intersection. They were reviewing the trip, didn't notice the car parked in a farmer's driveway at an incline. They were picked off like sitting ducks.

Unheard of things happened during the tournament. Never have so many cows been left unmilked, hogs not fed, for their owners wanted to get to the game early to get a seat. At a district game at Bradshaw, 400 folks were turned away, police called to quiet the stamping crowd. The next night, when the gym was filled at 4 p.m., the game was quickly transferred to Aurora's larger gym. When it was then announced on radio and television, they came from near and far. Polk's former superintendent of schools H. E. Warren, and his wife from Exeter, Weatherman Richard Myers of Lincoln, former businessman, Merle Stromberg of Wahoo just to mention a few. Basketball boys who had been defeated by Polk came to help cheer them to victory. The Baptist Mission Circle changed its regular meeting date, so people could get to the game (It takes a pretty big deal to change a church ladies meeting in Polk.) Baptist minister Rev. Elmer Logan is one of the bus drivers. Rev. O. A. Johnson of the Methodist Church hates to miss a game.

Many folks have remarked about the faithfulness of three sisters who drove yon to the games. The three Lind sisters, Emma, Winnie and Lillie, relatives playing, their age in the sixties. From Kearney College came a carload of Polk boys — Steve Funk, Gary Stohl, Galen and LaMar Lind, — missing school on Friday to see the home boys play.

Yes, the town has been "dead" during the current basketball season. One person quipped "If there was a fire in town, who'd be around to put it out?"

Who deserves credit for Polk's winning streak? Of course the boys themselves, who have had excellent write-ups in many papers over the state, but next should be mentioned their excellent coach, Jim Karloff. He's an A-1 guy, the boys love him respect him and obey him, the community takes pride in knowing "he's the right influence for the boys".

Next in the deserving credit line should come the school spirit and followers the three cheer leaders the pep club and high school band, the superintendent of schools and teachers, who when school lets out at 2 p.m. to take up at 10 the next morning during state tournament, took adverse lesson learning under later advisement. The town businessmen deserve credit-folks like Dinsdale Grain Co., who say, "Give you a feed anytime, boys;" Bob Baack, who wouldn't let a bet go by that wasn't on the Polk side; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dobberstein, who entertained the boys at a feed.

Have studies suffered? Well, what do you think? Will the attendance at musical festival coming up in late March and early April rival this enthusiasm? Was there a big happy, thankful crowd at church come Sunday morning or were there too many sleepyheads? Were 28 games too many to play in one season? There were fall football games too, and track is coming up? Will basketball "heroes" be made?

Well, as Marvin Fredrickson, Polk businessman, so aptly put it; "It puts the little town of Polk on the map. Folks who never heard of us before, will be talking about us."

All in all, it's been very exciting in Polk the past few weeks.

Treats on Kids This Halloween

POLK, Neb. (AP) .Youngsters from Mrs. Irvin Anderson's Methodist church Sunday school class gave—instead of received—the Hallowe'en treats this year.

Sixteen children, age 12 and up, who masked themselves and called themselves "good will goblins," delivered more than 50 small baskets of fruit, candy and cookies to the sick and shut-ins of the community.

Uses Beer Cans To Build Fence

POLK, July 12 (Special)—Ralph Branting has discovered what to do with the beer cans which are cluttering up the roadsides of Nebraska — he's made a fence of them.

Branting soldered the cans, end to end, to make a 24-foot fence. There are a top and bottom row of 59 cans each, and 30 rows of seven cans running up and down.

The fence, which is attracting a lot of attention, forms a back yard partition between Branting's garden and that of his neighbor. He is planning to paint the fence in the near future.

Polk Sisters Alternate in Getting Injured

POLK (Special) — The two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. David Eckdahl, are seemingly playing "eenie meenie" when it comes to breaking bones in their bodies.

Beverly, a high school sophomore, fell and broke a bone in her foot in January and was on crutches for six weeks.

Jean, who is employed at the Citizens State Bank here, took a tumble on the ice in March and had to hobble around with cruches for six weeks with a cast on her ankle.

This week it was Beverly's turn again. She injured her wrist, and has a cast on her right arm and part of hand.

"I'll keep my fingers crossed when this six weeks stint is over," says Mrs. Eckdahl, who is getting tired of seeing casts on her daughters.

Pair of Searches for a Single Lens

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—A Polk girl, watching a night program in the park, lost one of her contact lenses.

While the show went on she, her friend and the night marshal searched the grass with his flashlight and finally found the lens.

Holding it in the palm of her hand she uttered a relieved "whew"—and blew the lens back into the grass.

Followed another, and longer search, but also successful.

"Don't ask me what the program was about," she said when she got home.

NEWS from POLK

Cheryl Anderson, age 5, prefers doing things the easy way. Recently she visited her aunt in the country who doesn't have modern bathroom facilities. After a trip to the "little house", she returned with this comment: "It sure is nice not to have to bother to flush it."

Runs Into Truck Instead of Dog, Youth is Injured

POLK, Aug. 30. (Special) — Because Bobby Bryant chose to hit a truck rather than his dog, he has to stay in bed for a few days.

Bobby, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bryant, ran his bicycle into a truck parked on an off street in order to avoid striking his dog, and suffered injured muscles around his abdomen.

At first the injuries were thought to be serious, but a doctor's examination found that he had only injured the muscles, and will be back on his "bike" in about a week.

Girl Gets Shock, Bed Breakfast

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—Rosalie Nelson, Polk High School senior, awoke to find her mother serving her breakfast in bed.

"Why the de luxe treatment?" she asked.

Her mother, Mrs. Alice Nelson, explained:

Rosalie was playing her new record player and received a jolt of electricity through a short in the player arm. She appeared to be all right, then a numbness set in. Mrs. Eldon Johnson, a nurse, gave her first aid treatment until a doctor arrived.

Rosalie remembered othing from the time she arted to play the record.

? ?

Did You Know?

? ?

One of the most unusual things in anyone's possession in the Polk area is the casket which Richard Sealey, Jr. has in a farm building. He found it in a ravine in his pasture and has had a lot of fun since - like that time at the Halloween party when he really "spooked" everyone.

Polk had several native sons who became ministers - Rev. Edick Anderson; Rev. Hugo Rodine; Rev. Clarence Lind; Rev. Albert Samuelson; Rev. Rudolph Samuelson; Rev. Henry Nyberg, Chicago; Rev. Virgil Nyberg, Rocky Mountains; and Rev. Raymond Lindquist, Hollywood; Rev. Acquilla Cohagen, Rev. Lester and Rev. Marvin Westlund.

Glen Hill's cousin, Barbara Minty, is a well-known model. This young girl's picture has been on the cover page of Cosmopolitan and other magazines, and also on the Clairol shampoo package.

The year 1949 was a year of snow, snow, and more snow. Paul Holmes died during that time. The mortician from a nearby town couldn't get to Polk to embalm the body for five days.

Two young men from Polk who served in the U. S. service overseas, met girls from there, married, came to the U. S., but now have returned to live in their wife's homeland.

Stephen Gustafson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Gustafson, lives in Germany. Lt. Dan Tyler and Vicki Moody, who met while he was on R and R in Sydney, Australia, were married at Central City, Nebraska. They have returned to reside in Australia.

Enoch Peterson has a niece who is doing television commercials in Hollywood. Margaret Ann, daughter of Dr. Arthur Peterson, Polk graduate, had a TV debut on the Andy Griffin show and appeared in other television programs. Her father worked his way through the University of Nebraska College of Medicine by playing the banjo with dance bands.

A Polk lady, Mrs Hazel Johnson, has owned a dress shop in Stromsburg for 28 years. But she has scarcely been in the store for 12 years. It is managed by her daughter, Mrs. Corrine Adelson of Polk.

Nicknames

Orrin Alfred's writings of nicknames causes me to name a few here that still "stick." I often wonder how and why these handles into being came.

Orlie Miller is "Slick"; Floyd Miller is "Mutt"; Lennis Lind is "Swede"; Lloyd Lind is "Joe"; Mauritz Johnson is "Mo"; Harold Green is "Hi"; Morris Lindquist is "Link"; Dennis Mills is "Butch"; Darwin Neuhaus is "Dob"; Neil McNaught is "Nick"; Rolland Stromberg is "8-Ball"; Merle Strombergis "Snus"; and Leonard Stromberg is "Skone."

Some families like the Harvey Hahn and Thede Stevens boys all had nicknames: In the Hahn family Delano is "Buck"; Don is "Slug"; Dwayne is "Shorty"; Doyle is "Pete"; Dolan is "Joe"; Darwin is "Dob"; and Dennis is "Dick". In the Stevens family Wayne is "Jocko"; Horace is "Spike"; Earl is "Shine"; and Glenn is "Friz".

Can you name some others?

Where Corn Is King

There is lots of corn raised in the Polk area and there are many seed corn salesmen. To name some: Moews - James Lindburg, District Dealer with Roger Hanquist and Terry Van Housen, dealers; Trojan - Paul Stevens and Frank Ostrander; DeKalb - Roy Glasser, also Arlo and Gaylerd Steves and Lee Harless, Pioneer - Ilof and Don Ostberg and Bill Shenk; Prairie Valley - Leonard Anderson; Lynks - David and Rolland Stromberg and Chas Shenk; Funks - Bob Baack - Fontenelle - Paul and Larry Coover; Northup-King - Wallace Sandell.

William Jennings Bryan once visited at Polk. He stayed overnight at the H. G. Brauer house (Lanny Ehns lives there now) when Mr. Bryan was on a political campaign. Viola Brauer Wall, who was 4, sat on his lap and sang "Old Black Joe."

Many remember Frog Pond School south of Polk. It was named because frogs and pollywogs abounded in the area.

Although the Nebraska Blue Book (latest edition) says that there are 107 persons residing in Polk County who are foreign born, however, to our knowledge, only five reside in Polk area: Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Anderson - Sweden; Mrs. Leonard Warnick - England; and Rev. and Mrs. John Kim - Korea & Harry Anderson - Sweden.

Carl Steelquist organized the Polk Community Chorus in 1940. He was Municipal band member for 25 years.

Carl was one of the 4 members of a German style band that played for Polk basketball games. Carl was an uncle of Lelah McNaught and Myrtle Bush. His wife owns a farm near Polk. Carl loved music.

Nettie Carlson visited her niece, Evelyn Lincoln, in Washington, D.C. in November, 1963.

Mrs. Carlson was the last person to have her picture taken in the White House with President John Kennedy, along with her niece.

There was once a bowling alley in Polk, located on east main street.

There was also a roller skating rink, much used by youth, in the Viking Hall (Community Center).

Welcome Willits Alt, class of 1940, is the only Polk High School Alumnus who has a set of triplets.

The town of Lucella was laid out 3 miles east and ½ mile north of the present site of Polk. A store was built and a bank incorporated by M.F. Smith, Joshua Cox and son, Raymond. The town was named in honor of Mrs. T.B. Hord, whose name was Lucella. There was a disagreement on the location of the town, and the town was moved to Polk. Alvin Dahlin has a check drawn on the Bank of Lucella.

Polk's early yearly celebrations always included a balloon ascension and later the first airplane to come to Polk was on Celebration Day, for $1 a ride.

In the January 1909 Progress it stated small liberty bells were given for scholarship awards each month to the pupils with the highest marks in each grade. The pupils' names were listed in the Progress.

Early advertising in the Progress included these items - Perfection Oil Heater, Panama silk, Round Oak stoves, Star Brand and Buster Brown shoes, Hobart M. Cable pianos, Maxwell and Reo automobiles, Red Cross hats, alfalfa meal, oil meal, hammocks, surreys, baseburners, Peerless patterns, Free sewing machines, harness, Hanson gloves, Monarch stoves, Hampton Flour, Wheeler shirts, and Model T cars.

Three Polk area families have received the Polk County Soil Consdrvation award, which is an aerial map of their farm. H.P. Tewell, Mrs. Nettie Carlson, and Lennis Lind were so honored.

Campers of the Polk area whose ages are over 65 are the Wallace Sandells. They've enjoyed many 1974 "short jaunts" to scenic Nebraska places.

Mrs. Dwight Burney and Mrs. Irvin Anderson have chatted with four U.S. Presidents: Dwight Eisenhower, Harry Truman, John Kennedy, and Richard Nixon.

The only colored man believed to have worked in Polk was Louie, who in 1921, kept 3 to 5 other men busy bringing him bricks to make Polk's paving.

A Polk business man evidentally doesn't exactly appreciate luxury. At Miami, Florida, on a gift trip given by a company for which he is a dealer, he had a $40 a night room. The view was beautiful, the furniture was gorgeous, and the service excellent.

But the bed was too soft. He slept all three nights while he was on the pleasure trip, --- of all places --- ON THE FLOOR!

Rev. Hopkins, coming to Polk Methodist Church in June of 1974, remarked at first board meeting, "It's a bit confusing to have 2 Carol Stevens, 2 Mildred Andersons, and 2 Myrtle Johnsons on the church roll."

Polk had the first baby born in the York Hospital, Arlo Donald Stevens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gaylerd Stevens. (New hospital, 1973)

Three "made alike" houses were built in Polk in the early days. They are occupied now by James Brazda, Sr., Mrs. James Felton, and Madison Hoover.

There are two Tewells whose first name is pronounced the same - one male and one female.

Frances (Mrs. H. Tewell) is a cousin by marriage of Francis Tewell. One lives north and the other south of Polk.

Roger Merchants are building one of the nicest homes ever built in the Polk area. Tom Harrington's home is perhaps the most unusual home of the area.

The Clair Willits family in early days received mail for the Polk area. The post office (in their home) was named Horton. Mail came from Stromsburg. Area folks went to "Horton" to get it.

Mrs. Lloyd Widga has a hand carved jewelry box carved by her great, great, grandfather in Sweden in 1709.

Did you ever hear the story of the "shrinking raincoat"? A Polk lady, walking on the streets of Grand Island, in a new raincoat, suddenly felt it shrink as she walked in the rain... in fact the cloth shrank so much she could barely get the coat off when she stepped into a nearby store. Her sister, who had on an old raincoat, had a good laugh as she watched the coat get smaller and smaller.

Vincent Jones of Columbus married Ruth Behlen and is mentioned prominently in "The Behlen Story" which is at the Polk Library.

Arlo Stevens has several buffalo. They run with the cattle in a pasture north of Hordville.

Polk has two "second-generation" businesses, the Sundberg & Son Hardware and the Wall Funeral Home.

Max Peterson, who is an official in a bank in Ohio, invented the "Money Door." Actual money is embedded in the door of a bank.

Perhaps no family is as close together as the Will Stevens children. Seven children reside within seven miles of Polk.

The January "Evangelical Beacon" related that Dr. Lester Westlund, a former Polk resident, who is Secretary of the Overseas Missions, has traveled the equivalent of 40 times around the world. He resides in Minnesota.

Mrs. Orpha Due of York, a former Polk resident, has over 1000 sets of salt and pepper shakers.

Elaine Nyberg Ascanio of Madera, California, (formerly of Polk) is the subject of a chapter in a book being published, "A Little Further On."

Written by Mrs. A.G. Peterson, an early day missionary of Venezuela, it tells of the miracle of healing of Elaine, who was a missionary teacher in South America, working with Mrs. Peterson.

"Elaine became ill. A doctor, after examining her, said she had a tumor on her spine. He advised taking her to a specialist in Caracus.

We did, - he gave her medication, but her condition worsened. She became paralyzed and could not even swallow juice. After examining her, the doctors told us she had only about 5 days to live. We sent a cablegram to her parents at Polk, Nebraska.

Several days later, as I was in her room, she opened her eyes and said, "Pray. . .Oil." We brought oil and invited Christian friends to come pray after we anointed her. They came. We prayed.

The Lord met with us. . . .

At the moment nothing happened, according to Elaine, but she realized she had been anointed. She turned to the wall, just trusting in God.

Later, after the Christians had gone, I heard a noise in her room. Elaine was sitting on the bed. She asked, 'When did we come here? I want to get up. I am now well.'

She did, and ate dinner with us that evening. A wonderful miracle had been performed."

This story is from the 1973 Evangelical Beacon. Rev. Peter and Elaine Ascanio pastor the Spanish Evangelical Church in Madeira, California.

Elaine is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nyberg, and a graduate of the Polk High School.

A Polk resident, Charles H. Lindburg was chosen to accept the present County Court House for the people of Polk County at the day of dedication.

Approximately 454 former and present residents of Polk and locality have served in the U.S. Armed Forces including Civil War Veterans. This is more than the entire population of Polk at the present time.

Butch Mills and Al Shockey planted the first trees that were planted in Polk's city park about 1907.

Fred and Al Shockey and Bob Alrich dug the basement for the Polk Baptist Church. Fred Shockey also did masonry work in Polk in early days.

Mrs. Thede Larson once taught classes of china painting in Polk. That was about 50 years ago. Mrs. Alvena Lind has a set of Bavarian China which she painted when she took lessons from Mrs Larson. Mrs. Reuben Hanquist was another one who took lessons.

Several Polk area folks have summer homes at nearby lakes: Roger Gustafsons and Glenn Babcocks at Lake Erickson, Kenneth Stewart at near Central City.

Winnie Gabrielson was a missionary to India. She was the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Gabrielson and a sister of Mrs. Gunnard Stohl, who lives in Lincoln.

E. G. Kroger, who served for many years as a District Judge, grew up in the Polk community before moving to Grand Island. He died in 1973. His land in Polk area is owned by his sons and daughter. He was a brother of Will Kroger.

Horace Stevens received the Pat Abey Memorial trophy in 1967 for being the High Point Rider in the Nebraska Horse Clubs Association.

Mrs. Arthur Doremus has an unusual piece of crochetting. It was a 36 by 48 inch scene of the Lord's Supper. It took her 15 months to make.

Mrs. Glen Hill was state winner in the Farm Bureau oration contest with the topic "Better Schools for Rural America" and represented Nebraska in New Orleans competition. She won second in the National competition.

Her niece Natalie Hahn, was also state winner with the topic "What's Ahead for Farmers", and represented Nebraska at the National in 1963 in Chicago.

Two Orientals have served churches at Polk. One at the Immanuel Lutheran Church and Dr. John Kim, a Korean, at Polk United Methodist.

Remember when --

Polk telephone girls kept dates for Polk doctors? Yes, if a doctor was to be gone, he'd call and report to the telephone girl where he was at and she, in case he was needed, would contact him.

Unusual Things about Polk

Since about 1956, the Village of Polk has been giving the Garden Club ladies about $35 to plant flowers in two plots along the highway in Polk. The flower beds of petunias, zinnias and sweet alyssum, Etc., flourish.... As the poet Keats said, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

These roadside spots, once neglected and unsightly with weeds have been lovely to see. The women work in the early morning generally to water and tend the flowers.

Frank Cohagen, through the years, has been Polk's chief "good sweet corn raiser", and he has shared his good corn with many towns people....

This year his green thumb "turned up: a large sweet potato - a seven pound one.

Nettie Carlson has lived on the same farm 83 years. Lennis Lind has a 64 year record. Willard Adelson has a 70 year record.

Four of the Will Lindburg family have observed their 50th wedding anniversaries. (See picture elsewhere).

The first house in Polk was built by John Rogers for H. G. Brauer, according to relatives.

For almost a hundred years only two owners have owned the Henry Blase farm southwest of Polk. Henry Blase - the Louis Blase.

Henry Blase received the deed about 1872 and built a soddie. The late Louis Blase tells of fording the Platte bridge to get supplies and doing it when the water was low. His father often drove to Lushton taking a load of wheat to get ground and exchanged for flour. Mrs. Blase often walked to Hordville and back with two baskets of eggs, the round trip being 7 miles. She'd bring back supplies.

Richard Ramage was the first baby born in Polk. His parents operated a store here. He lives at Central City. He still returns to Polk, as he is employed by Procter and Gamble as a specialty man and stops at Polk's IGA store.

Pleasant Homemakers 4-H Club has in trust several hundred dollars to help on a fund to have each street corner in Polk have the name of the street.

Alvena Flodman Stohl (formerly Mrs. Robert Stohl), a Polk housewife, won $5,000 in a home show drawing in Omaha about 20 years ago.

Mrs. Ruth Benjamin Bragg is a distant cousin of the John Rockefeller family of New York.

In 1973, Jake Harding, now of Lincoln, was honored upon his retirement for 44 years with the Union Pacific railroad.

Norris Alfred is a painter. He has a number of lovely oil portraits.

When the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hahn were growing up, there was confusion if a letter came marked D. Hahn. Their names are Don, Dennis, Dwaine, Doyle, Delano, Dolan, and Darwin.

Mrs. Dwight Burney, as president of the Nebraska Press Women, had the honor of introducing the guest speaker, Mrs. Joseph F. Kennedy, mother of John Kennedy who later became President.

The most unusual pet in Polk is probably Henry Ditmer's skunk, deodorized. Hank takes her for walks and carefully feeds and cares for her.

Farmer's Grow Much Corn

Through the years--corn has been the main commodity raised by farmers of Polk area.

For the past about 35 years, 4 out of 5 farmers have put down irrigation wells at an average expense of about $10,000---well and pipe. But their production has increased, in many places more than doubled, so that now there are yields of 125 - 150 bushels per acre.

Farm land values have increased in Polk area--some estimate up to 30% the past year. One Polk farmer who last year said he would sell his irrigated farm for $1000 an acre, now, in 1974 says, "No deal".

Early Progresses show a continued story running in the center pages of each issue. Many older residents recall how they anxiously awaited each issue to read the story.

James Wilson wrote and had published a song about Stromsburg.

In 1912 the Progress editor counted 158 farm rigs and 26 automobiles in Polk on a Saturday evening. Band concerts were held and stores were open on Saturday nights.

The drinking fountain (made for horses), on the north side of the city park - was made by Polk's then well-known "cement man" - H. G. Brauer, father of Mrs. S. Wall and Mrs. L. Wurtz.

In days of yore Polkites watched and waited for the "Bug" to come in.

That was the nickname of the motor car that came to Polk each day bringing mail and a few passengers.

In 1912 - when the first passenger train came through, there were 150 passengers on board.

Polk's highest population was in 1930 - 532. In 1940 - 493, in 1950 - 508, 1960 -433, and in 1970 - 410.

Believed to be the biggest crowd that ever gathered in Polk to hear a speaker was in 1964 when a native son, William McGaffin, Assistant Press correspondent, returned to Polk to tell of his war experiences while in Africa as a reporter.

Of the approximately 175 houses in Polk, there are about 40 houses in which only one person resides.

At a recent count there were about 40 persons living in Polk who are over 70 years of age.

There are, at last count, 55 widows, or single ladies, 7 widowers and 13 bachelors, residing in Polk.

Polk has 16 persons residing in Rest Homes in Stromsburg, Osceola, and Central City.

Empty houses in Polk - last count was six.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Merchant have had Japanese boys visiting and learning by staying at their home several months. The Robert Merchants made a return visit to the home of these boys in Japan.

Benjamins have always lived in their home north of the Methodist Church, beginning with Mr. and Mrs. Fitch Benjamin, now Mr. and Mrs. Meade Bragg.

Mr. and Mrs. Seth Piper are believed to be the couple who lived the most years together in this area.

In 1962 they observed their 69th wedding anniversary.

Mr. Piper was the last farmer of this area to farm with horses.

Gerald Warren's name is often heard on television or seen in the newspapers. He was Deputy Press Secretary for President Nixon. His parents were Supt. and Mrs. H. E. Warren, who were teachers here several years; moving in 1953 to Papillion.

James Wilson and Francis Flood were the first white men to cross Africa on a motorcycle. Mr. Wilson's book of the trip, "Three Wheeling Through Africa" is in the Polk Library.... Mr. Wilson and wife live near Polk.

Two Polk persons were married at the "Little Brown Church in the Vale", in 1928 - Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Anderson, and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hahn (Mrs. Hahn now Mrs. D. Burney).

Besides the former governor, Dwight Burney who lives at Polk, all of Nebraska's living former governors have visited Polk, Governor Norbert Tiemann at a Republican Rally in 1970, Val Peterson, Frank Morrison and Robert Crosby as speakers at High School Commencement.

A mother and three daughters have taught at the same school, - Dist. 45 northwest of Polk - Mrs. Will Stevens and daughters Mrs. Irvin Anderson, Mrs. Dwight Burney and Mrs. Glenn Hill. Another daughter, Mrs. Blanche Sundberg, substituted for a while for another teacher.

Five ladies in Polk own and operate "three-wheeling" type bicycles!

Will Garling, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, was 75 years of age before he visited a doctor. He lived at Polk until last year when he moved to Kansas. The Garlings observed their 60th wedding anniversary in 1973.

The first new home built in Polk after the ending of World War II was built by a GI - Henry Kisler.

Hilding Strand has traveled more miles than anyone in Polk to go to the University of Nebraska Football games. He attends all the games at Lincoln and many of the out-of-state games. His brother Paul generally attends also.

Gilbert Benson was the first deep well irrigator of Hamilton County (1937).

Albert Sundberg narrowly escaped being killed or seriously injured when the stove in the house one-half mile west of Polk, occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Peterson blew up. Nothing was saved.

The only car ever remembered being stolen in Polk was in 1972 when on Polk's Bean Day, Mrs. Leonard Anderson in haste left the keys in her car as it was parked in back of Hills Sand and Gravel.

Boys from the State School at Kearney were here to give a musical program. It is believed they took the car and later abandoned it in Lincoln, where it was found undamaged.

S. C. Davis was the first settler in Pleasant Home Precinct. He came in October 29, 1870, and settled southeast of Polk.

Stark was a small thriving town 3 miles west and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of Polk, before there was a Polk. The town was named for a Stark family.

There was a Lutheran and Baptist Church, post office, blacksmith and cream station and store there.

In 1914, six trains went through Polk daily.

In 1944 the 7th and 8th grades of Polk school were awarded a Government Citation for their Junior Commandos War Effort Program. They were one of the ten schools in Nebraska to receive it. They collected tons of old paper and scrap iron, and sold War Saving Stamps. These pupils were Ronald Benson, Janice Sundberg, Arthur Bates, Don Miller, James Sundberg, Donald Shostrom, Beverly Jones, Donald Rasmussen, Dale Nelson, Doris Anderson, Dorothy Kisler, Deloris Dahlin, Shirley Cramer, Virginia Green, Harold Bailey, and Corrine Carlson.

In 1945 the new Junior Commando members were Doyle Hahn, Jack LaVelle, Gloria Adelson, Shirley Scott, LaVonne Lyle, RaDonna Lindholm, Marilyn Dahlin, and Iolene and Annette Johnson. Mrs. Irvin Anderson was their teacher.

Mrs. John Myers has lived in Polk longer than anyone else - it is believed - 64 years. She will be 92 years old October 18, 1974. And she's lived 64 years in the same house.

Polk's first Annual Town and Country Festival was held on December 1, 1910. Polk merchants gave generous treats to all. Neighboring school districts as well as local talent provided an interesting program.

The name Sealey has been around Polk for six generations. The names Stevens, Nyberg, Lindburg, Miller, and Widga have been around for five generations.

Albert Sundberg, co-owner of Sundberg Hardware was asked what item in the store had changed the least through the years. He had a ready answer - the jack knife.

Six Polk persons have received the 50 Years Livestock Shipping Award: William Stevens, John Adelson, Ilof Ostberg, Dwight Burney, Ed Widga and Frank Adelson.

Johnson is the most popular name at Polk. There are 17 Johnsons listed in the phone book, Stevens' are next with 9, Andersons' 8, 7 Widgas', 6 Sundbergs' and five each of Gustafson, Hanquist, Jones, Lind, Lindburg and Miller.

Smith, U. S. A.'s most popular name? Only one in Polk area.

A cousin of Clifford Brantings is listed in the encyclopedia: Karl Hjalmer Branting, who died in 1925. He was premier of Sweden in 1920-25. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1921.

A postage stamp was issued in Sweden to commemorate his memory in 1960. He was one of Sweden's outstanding statesmen.

Polk has a Swanson Electric Co. - so does Stromsburg - no relation.

Polk has several "Bird Watchers." Editor of Polk Progress Norris Alfred each week has a column in his paper of where Swede Lind, Lee Morris and he have been looking for habitats and watching activities of various birds. Their count of species seen in the Polk area is almost - believe it or not - 150-200.

Lee Morris has been doing this for about 20 years, as he was a member of a state organization interested in bird observations. He got "Swede" and "Pedro" interested about 4 years ago. Statistics say Nebraska has about 300 bird species.

That the new "The Peddler" shop which opened at Grand Island recently has a fixture of interest to Polk folks.

The department selling calico and other yardage is furnished with stained glass fixtures from the first drug store in Polk.

There have been few twins born in Polk. At present, Kent and Kelly Adelson, age 14, live there, as well as the John Nyberg Twins, Stacy and Tracy, also twins of the Stanford Andersons, Roger Merchants, and George Wochners.

Several sets of brothers and sisters live within the town of Polk. The Stevens have the record - four sisters - Beulah Gustafson, Blanche Sundberg, Grayce Burney, and Hazel Hill.

There are three Lind sisters - Emma Anderson, Lillie Lind, and Winnie Whitacre - two Glasser brothers - Roy and Ira, and three Lindburgs, - Willard and Maurice and sister, Mrs. Ruth Aker - Warnick brothers, Leonard and Elmer - Oscar Sundberg and Mrs. Clarence Rodine (brother and sister , Paul and Hilding Strand, Wallace and Elwood Sandell, Mary Salchow and Carol Nelson, Joyce Baack and Beverly Bills, Lillie Johnson and Edith Stellars, May Johnson and Anna Guthrie, Martin Jones and Clara Anderson, Gordon Fossberg and Sylvia Sandell, Marvin Branting and Mrs. Reuben Swanson, Wilmer Rodine and Lavina Hanquist.

Quite a few father and son families reside within Polk.

Gilbert Benson was the only Polk man to own an airplane.

He, with his son Ronnie and Arnold Isaacson, president of Polk's Citizen State Bank, returning from a fishing trip to Canada, died in that plane when it nosed into a side hill in North Dakota in 1949. A heavy fog is said to have caused the tragedy. Ronnie was a University of Nebraska student.

Irvin Gestrine has an unusual fence-it is made of old iron wheels welded together.

Alvin Dahlin is remembered for the pencils he gave on Polk's 50th Anniversary as a remembrance. "Pa" Wayne Hill gave away about 300 for his 98th birthday. "Keep a Smile on Your Dial," says Pa-date, etc.

Pioneer Award To Lloyd Widga Family

Eleven owners of Polk County farms are to receive the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award during the Polk County Fair July 26.-1975

Handsome engraved plaques and framed certificates will be presented to Ronald L. Baker, August F. Carlson, Morris B. Johnson and Gustav Peterson all from Stromsburg. The Dawes Brothers Merle, Neil and Marvin and Hannah E. Monson all from Osceola. August Hasselbalch, Louise R. Krumbach and Mr and Mrs L. Rasp from Shelby. Clara Tonniges of Columbus and Lloyd Edward Widga of Polk. They are all descendents of families that started a century of farm ownership when Polk County was first being settled.

-1974-

Pioneer Farm Awards Will Be Given At Fair

Seven Polk County farm families are to receive the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award during the Polk County Fair on Aug. 11-13.

Handsome engraved plaques and framed certificates will be presented to Willard and Dorothy Adelson of Polk, Carl W. Anderson of Stromsburg, Irvin Gestrine of Polk, Edna P. Kreis of Stromsburg, Mr. and Mrs. Joe V. Monson of Clarks, Harold Robert Nelson of Gresham and Lester O. Widga of Stromsburg.

This unique award, co-sponsored by Ak-Sar-Ben and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers, is made annually to owners of farms which have remained in the same family for one hundred years of longer.

Of Emotional Honesty
by M.F. Smith - written in 1908

Down deep in the caverns of thought
Lie the motives of me and of you
Down there the voices tell us "we ought"
Down where emotions are real and true.

There is the world that shapes our lives
There fact and truth prevail
Where husbands are true or false to wives
Where lovers win or fail.

The Duty Full Day
by M.F. Smith - written in 1913

O, for a lay to the duty full day
With its duties all met and done
We now can rest with the sun in the west
From the victories we have won.

In the world of fate so vast and great, - We'll carry our humble share
With the sun's first beams we'll cease our dreams, And the burdens of life we'll bear.

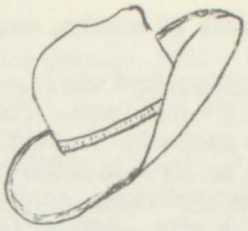
Then up and away to the duty full day, - Let's seek it while we can
For time flies fast, life will be past, - And shattered be God's plan.

If it's out to the field where the harvest yield,
Then away, my boy then away,
If it's down to the shop where the hammers drop
Be glad as you're earning your pay.

If it's up to the den to work with the pen
And record the deeds of fame
Where e'er in the strife in the battle of life
There make for yourself a name.

Though the task be hard it is still more hard
To have no work to do
And the heart will throb o'er a wholesome job
And God will seem sure and true.

TIP OF THE HAT TO:



Oldest Polk Resident, Oscar Johnson

This year, 1974, marks the 90th anniversary of the birthday of Polk's oldest resident, Oscar Johnson. Day, December 12.

He and his wife have been married 65 years and are 50 year members of the Swede Plain Church. They have always lived in this area. She was the former Segred Gustafson. Oscar served as a deacon in the church and Segred sang in the choir, often solos. She was also secretary of the Ladies Aid.

Their only child, Harlan and wife operated the HiWay Cafe in Polk. They have two grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

They reside in east Polk and both enjoy fairly good health, Oscar walking up town when weather permits, Mrs. Johnson ably keeping house. Both are Swedish and enjoy relatives' and friends' visits.

Evelyn Norton Lincoln

Evelyn Norton Lincoln has climbed higher than any other Polk Alumnus on the political ladder.

Born on a farm 4½ miles east of Polk, she attended elementary school at District 26, graduating in 1922 from the Polk High School. She attended the University of Nebraska and later taught school at Lexington, Nebraska. Here, she met her husband. Wayne Lincoln.

They moved to Washington, D.C.; Evelyn volunteered to do clerical work for Senator John Kennedy. She didn't know how to type, but learned, and became a good typist and secretary.

When Mr. Kennedy was elected president of the U.S. she became his personal secretary, and was with the political party at Dallas at the time of his death.

Evelyn has written two books, "My Twelve Years with Kennedy" and "Kennedy and Johnson." A relative reports that one of her books is to be made into a movie.

The farm home still stands. Her parents, former Congressman and Mrs. J.N. Norton are buried at the Swede Plain Cemetery northeast of Polk.

Dwight W. Burney

Residing in Polk, much of the time, is a former Governor of Nebraska, Dwight Burney (four months in 1960-61), 30th Governor.

Dwight Burney married Mrs. Lloyd Hahn January 1, 1965. He was Lieutenant Governor at that time and had been for the past 8 years. Before that he served in the Nebraska Unicameral 12 years.

Mrs. Hahn and the then Lieutenant Governor met at the Republican activities. Mr. Burney relates, "I first especially noted that lady from Polk when she led a group of Polk Republicans in singing a song to the Legislature. The group was on a bus tour to Lincoln. Later my wife died and Mrs. Hahn's husband passed away. I visited her and liked her. Within 6 months we married.

The Burneys maintain 2 residences, one in west Polk, the other at Hartington - 140 miles north of Polk.

Since marriage they have traveled extensively. They were chosen by Farmers & World affairs to go as farm leaders on a 2 month tour to Pakistan. The same year they spent 3 months in Europe, also visited the Holy Land.

They have escorted travel groups to every state in the U.S. - including Alaska and Hawaii, also to Canada and Mexico. Several years the Burneys "wintered" in Arizona and California.

Mr. Burney, now 82 years old, is still actively engaged in ranching activities at Hartington, takes an active interest in politics, has given a number of talks to schools, groups, etc. since retirement.

His hobbies are golf, crossword puzzles and solitare. He has 4 sons: Dr. Don Burney, Executive Director - Scholarships - Standard Oil of Indiana; Dr. Dwight, Jr., Orthopedic surgeon, Omaha; Willard - Farm Manager - Surveyor; and Keith - rancher, cattle buyer and feeder.

His two step-daughters Marilyn Pierpont and Natalie Hahn are dear to him also. "I always wanted a girl in the family, so now I'm happy to have two daughters.

In 1967 he wrote an 80 page book, "Nebraska's Farmer Governor", as he is the only farmer who served as governor of Nebraska.

Dwight Burney tells of his most unusual experience. "We were in Karachi, Pakistan half way round the world. The year was 1967. As U.S. Farm Leaders we'd crossed over India from East back to West Pakistan. We'd been without mail from home for 3 weeks.

We were in a small hotel, few tourists there, but there was an American couple also eating lunch. They

watched as we opened over 25 letters, our food getting cold as we read.

Coming over to us they inquired where we'd been that we had so much mail. We told them. They asked in what part of the U.S. we resided. We said Nebraska.

They answered, 'We've lived in California 40 years. I don't know anything about Nebraska, can't even think of the name of your capitol city. But my folks (the lady said) once lived in a small town there, doubt if you've ever heard of it.

As I'd traveled, in my political career, the length and breadth of the state, I inquired what town.

She replied, 'Hartington'. We showed her the postmark of a letter we had. Hartington is my home town. I don't know which of us was the most surprised."

SALUTE YOUTH

Joel Stevens

Joel Stevens has many trophies for drag racing.

He started the hobby some years ago, and has now graduated from the University of Nebraska, is married, and works in Lincoln, but "cars" are his hobby.

He has won top awards at a number of Nebraska towns.

Teresa Bedient

Teresa Bedient spent four months, in 1973, in Ceylon, near India as an IFYE student. She left last fall. Active in 4-H work, she is a graduate of the University of Nebraska.

Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Owen Bedient.

She has given many talks of her experiences.

Karen Stevens

Karen Stevens in 1963 was Nebraska Essay winner in the Nebraska Council on Alcohol Education Contest. She received a $100 Savings Bond.

Barbara Walker

A former Polk girl, graduate of the Class of 1952, was tops in the Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1956. Barbara, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Paul Walker, earned the Phi Kappa Gold Key for the highest 4 year average of all 1956 graduates.

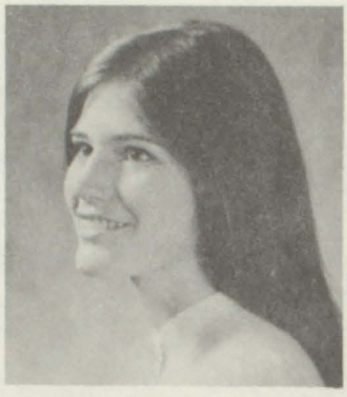
Mark Sandell

Mark Sandell, in 1969, while attending Boys State, received a trophy for having the second highest grade in a federal and state government test.

Brian Tyler

Brian Tyler was one of two students chosen to be college trustees at the Westminister College at Salt Lake City, Utah. The 19 year old Brian, a 1973 freshman and son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Tyler, will serve for one year

Becky Stevens



In the spring of 1970, Becky Stevens, daughter of Gerald and Dorothy Stevens, acting as coordinator for the county high schools, put together a county-wide campaign to "Swat Pot" in which high school students planted reed canary grass clumps and seeds along the weedy water-courses where drug suppliers had been collecting wild marijuana. Today this aggressive grass has crowded out the marijuana in many places.

Sydney Widga

Sydney Widga has been playing trombone with the Cornhusker Marching Band of 180. He has traveled with the band to various U.S. towns.

Danny Reed

Danny Reed was Polk County's 1973 Polk County Spelling contest winner. He represented the Midwest Spelling Bee at Omaha, was one of 12 survivors of the competition (written) and one of six in oral. "Elecution" eliminated him. 71 took part.

Gale Stevens

Gale Stevens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Stevens won an expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June of 1974 in a contest sponsored by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, Southern Nebraska Rural Public Power District. The trip included visits to many historical and educational sites.

Softball Team

The 1973 Girls softball team won the Six league tournament. Members were Roxanne Warner, Jeanell Carlson, Lynette Larson, Janis Schulze, Luann Bills, Jeanette Larson, Cheryl Samuelson, Julie Green, Marla Branting, Peggy Lindburg, Terri Harrington and Janice Bankson.

Tom Stevens

Tom Stevens, like his sister has received many honors for horse riding in shows and rodeos.

He has received over 140 trophies, belt buckles, plaques, medals, saddle blankets, brushes, ropes, and halters besides hundreds of ribbons during 10 years of showmanship.

With his father, Horace, he has received several trophies for being High Point Rider at horse shows.

Robin Flodman

Robin Flodman in 1970 received high point trophies in junior barrel racing and junior key hole, also second place in junior polebending and horsemanship.

Lyle Lindgren

Lyle Lindgren, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Lindgren was the 119th winner in the Golden Gloves District Tournament held at Grand Island in 1971. He is a member of the Archer Boxing Club of Central City.

Bruce Samuelson

Bruce Samuelson of Polk, in 1969 was awarded a one year regents scholarship of $355 to attend the University of Nebraska.

Natalie Hahn

Polk's most traveled youth is Natalie Hahn. She has visited all continents of the world, on tour of duty or scholarship grants.

Seven months in New Zealand as an International Foreign Exchange Youth, was her longest stay.

The summer of 1974 she spent in Guatemala, on a Pan American Foundation Grant.

She attended the Harvard University 1973-74 term with full paid tuition scholarship working toward a doctorate.

She returns in September 1974 to Rome, Italy, for further employment as a Youth Officer with the United Nations.

Natalie in 1967 was Polk's first and only youth to date to be chosen a Countess of Aksarben.

Girls State Representatives

1948 - RaDonna Lindholm; 1949 - Marilyn Dahlin; 1950 - None; 1951 - Jeanelle Kroger; 1952 - Marilyn Hahn; 1953 - None; 1954 - Lois Light; 1955 - Mary Guidinger; 1956 - Janet Larkin; 1957 - Dorothy Jean Ekdahl; 1958 - Kathleen Folden; 1959 - Lynda Dornburgh; 1960 - Janet Graves; 1961 - Joan Larkin; 1962 - Natalie Hahn; 1963 - None; 1964 - Linda Kisler; 1965 - Lynda Myers; 1966 - Carolyn Kealiher; 1967 - Nancy Kisler; 1968 - None; 1969 - Marcia Myers; 1970 - Gail Widga; 1971 - Julia Kisler; 1972 - Paula Bills; 1973 - Rebecca Miller; 1974 - Luann Bills.

Boys State

1950 - John Holmes, 1951 - Frank Ostrander, 1952 - Gaylen Holmes, 1953 - Verland Widga, 1954 - Jack Larkin, 1960 - Michael Fjell, 1961 - Regy Green, 1962 - Douglas Sandberg, 1963 - John Rucknor, 1964 - Dennis Widga, 1965 - Allan Neuhaus, 1966 - Dennis Stevens, 1967 - Joel Stevens, 1970 - Gerald Kealiher, 1971 - Kent Anderson, 1972 - Layne Hanquist, 1973 - Murray Ostberg, 1974 - Rodney Swanson.

Cheryl (Anderson) Kess

Cheryl Anderson won a Washington, D.C. trip in the Nebraska R.E.A. contest by submitting the winning essay on "Uses of Electricity on the Farm."

Steven Flodman

Steven Flodman, the 27 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Flodman, ranks high in being awarded scholastic honors.

An honor student four years, he received the Regents, Drier Scholarship, Unicameral Award and an Educational Grant to attend the University of Nebraska.

When he graduated from the College of Law in 1972, he ranked 7th in a class of 126. The Roscoe Pound Award also helped him further his career.

He is one of the few Polk High School Alumni to be a Phi Beta Kappa.

Voted outstanding sophomore cadet of ROTC, he also ranked 59th in the University graduating class of Pre-Law in 1969 of a class of 845.

He is a Second Lieutenant in the military. He was married to Patricia Carter on June 8, 1969. They live at 1201 J St. in Lincoln.

Steven is associated with the Barlow, Watson, and Johnsor Law Office.

JoAnn Stevens

When JoAnn Stevens was 10 years of age she rode in her first horse show. That was in 1962. A senior now at the State College at Kearney, she has compiled an outstanding record. She was All sports Queen in 1971 and chosen the Best-All around girl at high school graduation.

Active in the Route 66 Riders Club, she, in 1963 won trophies at Genoa, Aurora, St. Edward and Harvard. From 1963 to 1972, she has won 125 trophies, 23 belt buckles, a halter, 4 plaques, boots, blanket, lariot rope, shirt, pony brush. She's attended over 100 rodeos and shows. She received High Point Cloverleaf Barrel Race Trophy in NHCA in 1969 and has received high honors at State Fair and AkSarBen Shows. Often she has participated in 20-25 shows in one year.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Stevens.

Former Farmers Union Youth Institute Attendent Now Enployee Of The United Nations.

Natalie Hahn was an honored participant in the 1974 Master's Week program, an annual event sponsored by the two honorary organizations of the University of Nebraska, the Mortar Board and the Innocents.

The event honors outstanding graduates of the University. Natalie, the daughter of Mrs. Dwight Burney of Polk, Nebraska was a very active participant in Farmers Union Youth institutes held at Camp Jefferson near Fairbury, she graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1967 and has since become a world traveler in her employment with the Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations, headquartered in Rome, Italy since 1970.

She completed a Master's Degree in Journalism at Ohio State University prior to her position with the FAO.

Ms. Hahn is a native of Polk, Nebraska, where she was a member of 4-H for 10 years. She participated in the International Farm Youth Exchange ((IFYE) in New Zealand, and studied in the Punjab State of India on her way home.

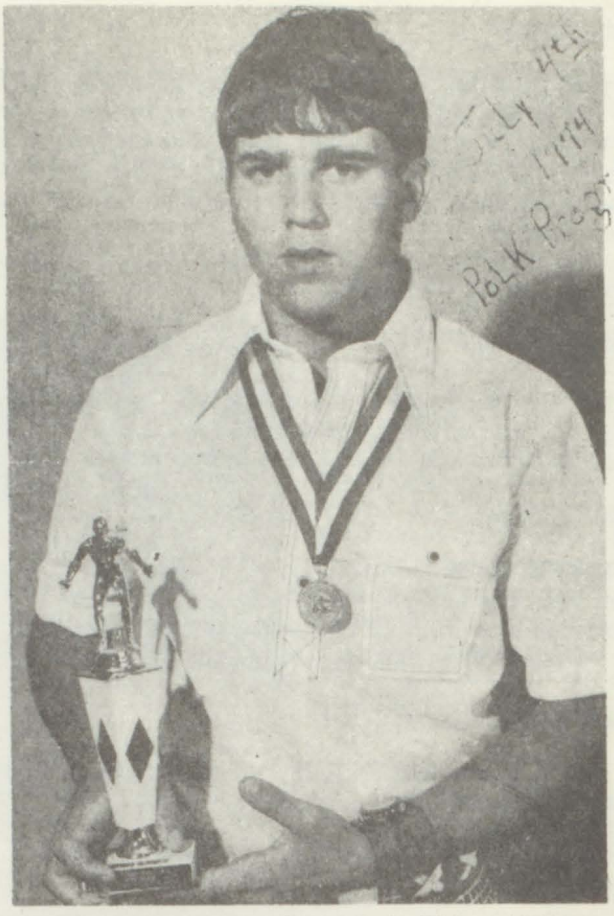
This was the beginning of her interest in international affairs. She was employed one summer at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C., and also had a summer internship in the office of Sen. Roman Hruska. In 1969, she was chosen as a group leader for the first 4-H Teed Caravan to Japan, and spent six weeks there.

Ms. Hahn has dealt with educational training programs for women and youth in Eastern and Southern Africa, including Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho and Ethiopia. She said only 25 per cent of all women in Africa go beyond the primary grades in school.

She is currently on a year's sabbatical at Harvard University to work on her Ph. D., focusing on legal, economic, educational and social factors related to the role of women in rural development in developing countries.

Ms Hahn has represented the FAO at UN meetings in New York, Geneva, Helsinki, and Copenhagen, and she has participated in international conferences in Costa Rica and Germany.

Salute to Youth

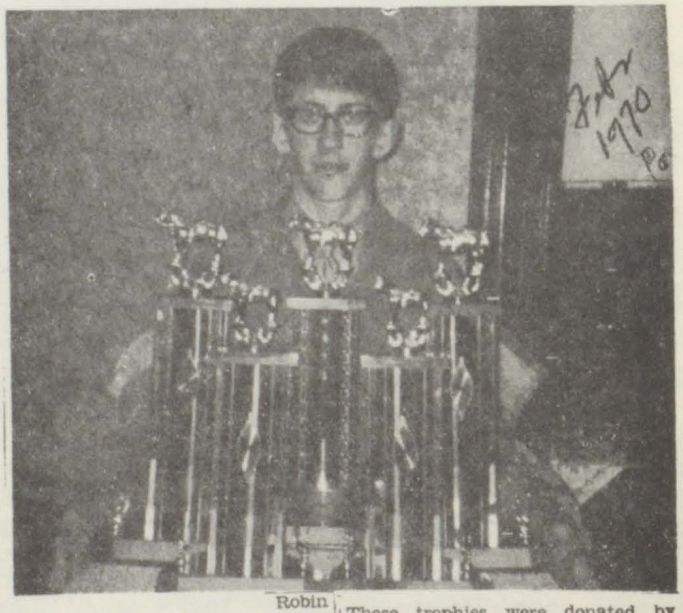


Tim Benson, a ninth grader at Karney Junior High next fall, won the 190-pound class freestyle wrestling title at the AAU nationals in Long Beach, Calif.

The Kearney grappler won four matches, two by pins, one by forfeit, and another by decision, to capture the national crown among the 13 and 14-year-olds in his weight class.

He is the son of Lynn and Sharon Benson of Kearney and the grandson of Mr and Mrs Paul Stevens of Polk. Tim is spending the summer with his grandparents helping with the farm work.

Robin Flodman Is High Point Rider In NHCA



Robin Flodman received high point trophies in Junior barrel racing and Junior key hole, he also received second place trophies in Junior pole-bending and Junior horsemanship. These trophies were donated by Duane Watts of KHAS TV. Robin also received the Pat Abby Memorial trophy as the high point rider in NHCA.

GOVERNOR PRAISES CLUB'S "HEART" SERVICE

by Sondra Hill, 14, Polk, Nebr.

Sept 19-1951

The Pleasant Homemakers enjoyed seeing, greeting and having their picture taken with Nebraska's Governor, Val Peterson, when he was guest speaker at the dedication of Midwest Covenant Home at Stromsburg.

The 4-H'ers and their leaders attended the meeting in a group. Even the club's newly elected pin-up girl, Cheryl Anderson, was present. She is the baby sister of our president, Marlene Anderson.

Governor Peterson said: "Church groups can better care for the aged than can Nebraska institutions at the present time. Our institutions are overcrowded."

He told the group that he was glad to see 4-H'ers interested in old folks. On New Year's Day our club baked and donated cookies to the 37 elderly people of the Stromsburg home, and also toured the newly remodeled building.

Young Midgets Had 10-9 Season 1973

The young Midgets lost, 9-6 in the tournament at Osceola to end the season with a 10-9 record. Back row: Coach Dud Baack, Allen Wilshusen, Mark Clymer, Dana Anderson, Tom Carlstrom, Tim Benson, In front: Tim Schulze, Larry Wilshusen, Danny Reed, Curt Burney, Lyndon, Veburg, Randy Branting, Joel Anderson, Brian Samuelson. Randy Branting, Tim Benson, Dana Anderson will play in the All-Star game.

Aug 23, 1973

The Polk girls softball team, coached by Sue Shaw received 3 trophies this season. From left to right the trophies are: the 3rd place District Tournament Trophy, the 1st place League Tournament Trophy and the 1st place Best Record trophy. The 3rd place District Tournament Trophy was won at Gresham on July 15. The Best Record Trophy was given for the team winning the most games this season. This trophy was given at the completion of seasonal play at Benedict. The 1st place League Tournament Trophy was given at the Waco Championship Tournament which was held on August 6, 7, and 8.

The team consisted of Jeanette and Lynette Larson, Terri Harrington, Julie Green, Janice Bankson, Roxanne Werner, Jeanelle Carlson, Janis Schulze, Cheryl Samuelson, Luann Bills, Maria Branting, Peg Lindburg and their coach Susan Shaw.

Youth Activities

TWO FROM POLK ON YOUTH AND MISSION TOUR

Aug 1973

Becky Flodman and Becky Miller are two local members of a Youth and Mission Tour, who are sponsored by the Polk United Methodist Church. The tour was arranged by the Conference of United Methodist Women and the Board of Global Ministeries. The group of 40 left Lincoln by bus, August 4 and will return August 17.

The itinerary is Lake of the Ozarks, Memphis, Tenn., New Orleans, La., Birmingham, Ala., Middleboro, Ky., Noshville, Tenn. Park City, Ky., St. Louis, Mo., and return

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS VISITED REST HOME

The Junior High Sunday School class of the United Methodist Church with their teachers, Mrs. Irvin Anderson along with Mrs. Arlo Stevens and Mrs. Wayland Flodman visited at the Covenant Rest Home at Stromsburg on Sunday afternoon. The group brought eighty small decorated boxes filled with candy and cookies for the residents at the home. They had devotions in the rooms of Mrs. Anna Wurtz, Mrs. Beda Noyd and Mrs. Mabel Dornburgh and presented each with a plant of artifical daisies.

Mrs. Dornburgh is a former member of the Polk Methodist Church and was a Sunday School teacher of Mrs. Anderson.

Teresa Bedient To Chicago 4-H Congress 1969

Teresa Bedient, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Bedient of Bradshaw, is one of three Nebraska 4-H'ers who will meet with Safety Award winners from across the nation at the National Safety Congress in Chicago, October 26-30.

She was voted the York County 4-H queen for 1969, and was selected by the Elks Club to receive the "Most Valuable Student Award" over students from 14 surrounding schools.

Three Polk Teenagers Attend Farm U. Camp 1973

Three Polk teenagers attended the 39th annual Farmers Union leadership camp, the 4-H Camp at Halsey July 29 to August 3.

They were Virginia Miller, daughter of Mr and Mrs Don Miller, Lynette Flodman, daughter of Mr and Mrs Wayland Flodman and Tina Gustafson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Gustafson.

—World-Herald Photos.

Big apples and some pretty pippins were found at Nebraska's State Fair in Lincoln. In the top picture Mrs. Curtis Sieck and daughter, Gail, of Lincoln inspect an apple display set up by the Nebraska Horticulture Society. Below six visitors get together to compare notes and souvenirs. From left are Bonnie Hanquist, Pamela Kneeland, Sheryl Bush, Avis Waller, Natalie Hahn and Irene Buzicka. Avis is from Stromsburg, the others from Polk.

Teen-Agers Have Fun, Profit, Too

Nebraska teen-agers are again swapping rock 'n' roll for detasseling yanks. Typical of the happy crews, a group hustled through the seven-foot-high seed corn on the farm of Sam Beaver near Waco. Seventy junior and senior high school workers came from Polk, Stromsburg and Osceola by truck at dawn for the hot, dusty task in the half-mile-long corn rows. They were employed by the J. C. Robinson Seed Company of Waterloo, Neb. The earnings will help pay for new school clothes and late summer vacations. But the pay is only part of the reward.

Teen-age hi-jinks, the fun of just being together, rest-period gossip sessions and the promise of an after-work swim and picnic at Osceola turned the day into a happy outing. Ralph Fluent, field supervisor and school superintendent at Ericson, praised teen-agers as "a wonderful bunch of kids and good workers." He added: "It's hard work and real hot in those rows. Put one of them in there alone and he'd die on you. But in a group, companionship, stories and laughter boost morale and keep them going."

—World-Herald Photos by Tom Allan.

Mid-row rest stop and gossip session . . . Karen Stevens, 14 (left), and Natalie Hahn, 14, of Polk.

NEWS OF THE SERVICEMEN

If You Don't Write—You're Wrong

Pfc. Gerald Stevens writes his mother, Mrs. Elsie Stevens that he is confined to a hospital in the Phillipines with yellow jaundice. He had been fighting side by side with the regiment in which his brother, Robert, is with. Although so close, he has not seen Robert since they have been in the Pacific.

50 YEARS AGO 1962

The first band concert of the season was held Wednesday evening with Dr. R. L. Peterson as director and consisted of 23 pieces. It was estimated that 225 cars were parked on the streets that evening and numerous out-of-town people complimented Polk on it's activity and the excellent talent of our musicians.

Union Pacific Railroad Gang Laying Track

Last year the Union Pacific railroad re-built the bed of the branch line on which Polk is located. This summer 131-lb. (per ft.) rail is being laid, replacing the old 70-lb. rail. The "new" rail comes from the mainline where it is being replaced by new welded rail. According to Larry Killion, Polk station agent, the 70-lb. rail, which was manufactured in 1894, has been bought by a razor blade manufacturer.

The rail crew worked through Polk two weeks ago. Much of the tedious work is accomplished by automatic machinery, but gangs totaling 120 laborers, foremen, and machine operators are also needed.

A page of ads and pictures on page seven tells the story of business activity along the railroad right-of-way in Polk; one of the reasons why this Union Pacific branch line remains a profitable operation. During 1970, Agent Killion stated, 1769 carloads were shipped out or in to Polk and Hordville. The railroad freight business for both places is handled at the Polk station.

Nebraska Class Cites Need For Liberty Bell That Rings

World-Herald Washington Bureau, Suite 1217 National Press Building.

An eighth-grade Sunday school class at Polk, Neb., the Wide Awakes, thinks the United States needs a Liberty Bell that will ring.

The seven youngsters suggested in a letter to Senator Carl Curtis that Congress appropriate money for one. They said they appreciate the signifiance of the original Liberty Bell, but felt "a new one should proclaim liberty to all the land."

"We feel it could revive a feeling of patriotism," they wrote. The new bell might be called the Freedom Bell, they said.

Senator Curtis referred their letter to the Department of the Interior. The National Park Service has jurisdiction over Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, where the Liberty Bell is displayed.

Many of the old timers will immediately recognize this picture taken in the 1920's. The long-time editor and publisher of The Polk Progress is pictured with his wife on the south side of their house, now owned by Mrs. Esther Benson. We can't recall having ever seen Mac McGaffin but he was nattily dressed always with white shirt and neatly tied necktie and shoes that had a recent shine. What struck us when coming across the picture was Mac's suit. The style would not be out-of-date today. The narrow pant legs, double breasted coat and flowing tie would render him inconspicuous in a well-dressed 1970 crowd.

Honor Students Is Family Habit

Donnette Ostberg, Valedictorian, and Bruce Samuelson, Salutatorian, were upholding family traditions at the Polk High School Commencement Thursday night.

Donnette's mother, Mrs Donald Ostberg was valedictorian of the Class of 1944 and her aunt, Mrs Lela Ruch, was valedictorian of the Class of 1941. Another aunt, Mrs Helen Burge was salutatorian in the 1935 class. Donnette's cousins, Mrs Irvin Anderson, Class of 1922, Mrs Glenn Hill, Class of 1929 Margaret Peterson, class of 1931, and Mrs Marilyn Pierpont, Class of 1953, were all valedictorians. In the Cass of 1946 another cousin, Mrs Phyllis Shroder was salutatorian.

Bruce Samuelson is Number 7 in a line of family honors. His aunt, Mrs Elaine Ascanio, Class of 1935 and uncle Bartel Nyberg Class of 1958, were valedictorians. Three aunts were salutatorians: Shirley Hanquist, Class of 1947, Margaret Dennis, Class of 1941 and Doris Smith, Class of 1938. Bruce's mother, Mrs Dean Samuelson, while not a top honor winner in her class did receive the Regent's scholarship.

All are Polk High graduates.

Junior Auxiliary Honor Their Fathers With Breakfast Sunday In The Legion Hall

Front row, left to right: JoElla Stromberg, Monica Werner, Margaret Baack, Jonita Baack, Jane Kealiher, Roxanne Werner, Leslie Jones Judy Saylor. Second row: Mary Jo Widga, Julia Kisler, Carita Jones, Donnette Ostberg, Gail Widga, Helen Doremus, Nancy Kealiher, Anna Kisler, Auxiliary president. Back row: Elaine Stromberg, Jr. Auxiliary leader, Carla Myers, Jolene Myers, Nancy Kisler, Teresa Bedient, Mary Lou Kealiher, Donnette Jones, Becky Stevens.

The Junior Auxiliary meeting for February was programmed to emphasize Americanism, and the girls decided to honor their fathers with an eight o'clock breakfast in ercognition of their service to the country in time of war. Special guest was Mrs Anna Kisler, Auxiliary president.

The program consisted of a lighted welcome sign made by Jane Kealiher and JoElla Stromberg. Registration was by Mary Lou Kealiher and Mary Jo Widga. The prelude was played by Becky Stevens, color bearers were Nancy Kisler, Jolene Myers, Jonita Baack and Monica Werner. Gail Widga played the bugle taps.

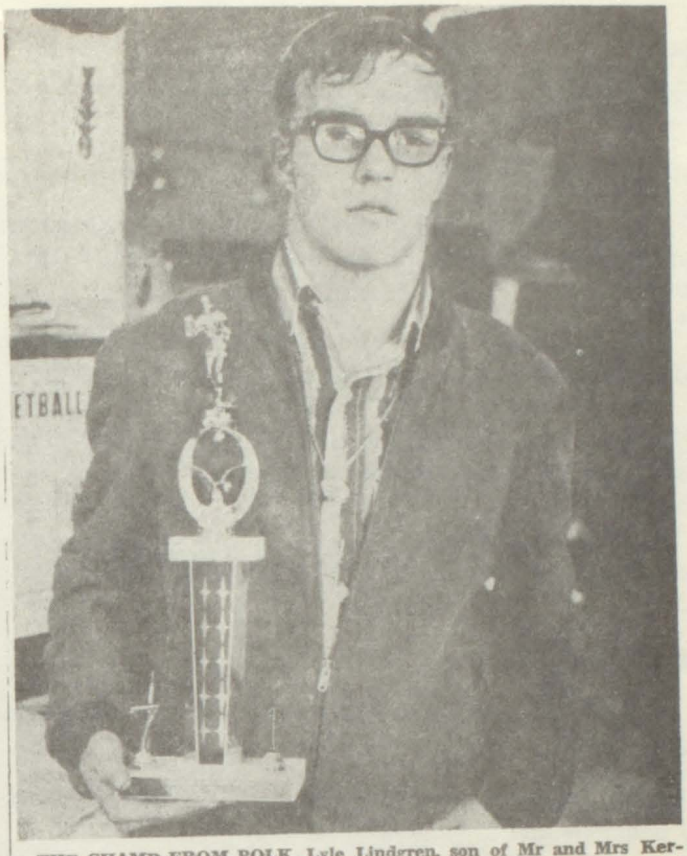
A welcome was given by Teresa Bedient, president of Junior Auxiliary with a response by Commander Don Ostberg. Secretary Donnette Osberg read roll call and members answered by saying something about their fathers.

The fathers answered by telling where they had been stationed in service. A poem "Fathers" was read by Julie Kisler and Carita Jones. Chaplain Helen Doremus gave the prayer.

The girls made favors and also brought Barbee Doll hats and prayers.

Kitchen help was Mrs Don Widga, Mrs Roger Werner, Mrs Florene Doremus, Mrs Joyce Baack and Mrs Rolland Stromberg. The last three also helped the girls plan this breakfast.

Don Ostberg, Max Jones, Dean Myers, Rolland Stromberg, Ed Saylor, Owen Bedient, Henry Kisler, Noel Kealiher, Vic Doremus, Roger Werner, Gerald Stevens, Robert Baack, Donavin Widga.



THE CHAMP FROM POLK. Lyle Lindgren, son of Mr and Mrs Kermit Lindgren of Polk is the 119 lb. winner in the Golden Gloves District Tournament held at Grand Island. He advances to the Midwest Tournaments at Omaha, Febr. 19 and 20. Lyle is a member of the Archer Boxing Club of Central City. The coach is Jim Harris. Febr. 11 1971

Stories of Polk Youth

Mary Lindburg, Phyllis and Pam Ostberg and Gail Widga are cooking pancakes by the method known as pour-flip-press-serve, when the United Methodist MYF sponsored a pancake supper at the Polk Community Hall Saturday evening. Mrs Arlo Stevens, in background, is ready to call batter up or batter out.

Warren Bedient Fund Gains From Raffle 1971

Winners of the four quarters of beef, for which the Polk Community Club sold $1536 worth of tickets, are: Vern Skinner, Clarks, front quarter; Darwin Hahn, Osceola, front quarter; Timmy Benson, Kearney, hind quarter; Melvin Bender, Polk, hind quarter.

The winning tickets were drawn from a big container by Virginia Miller at the Polk Community Club meeting Monday evening. The quarters of beef are at Stromberg's IGA. The $1536 goes into the Warren Bedient Kidney Fund.

The sophomore class of Polk H. S. held a cake auction at the faculty-varsity basketball game last Wednesday evening which brought in over 80 dollars. The class added

Last week's total of $4,960.00, included amounts reported to the Progress, but not necessarily collected or deposited in the bank by the Progress. However, that figure will be used in starting the list of donors during the week.

Previously reported	$4,960.00
Total	$6,694.12

The formal drive for funds ends with the raffle Monday night.

One of the Largest Fund Raising Events in Polk

They Served

National Recognition

J.N. Norton served Nebraska in the U.S. Congress and was later employed in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Evelyn Norton Lincoln, daughter of J.N. Nortons, served as private secretary to the late President Kennedy.

James Wilson in 1971 was named as Honorary Member of the Soil Conservation Society of America.

The Pleasant Homemakers 4-H Club received the National Safety Award in 1957 for outstanding services.

State Honors

Kenneth Stewart is a past Grand Patron of Nebraska Eastern Star.

J. N. Norton served in the State Legislature in 1911-17 sessions and in the 1937 Unicameral.

Ira Glasser who turned 70 last year and after 26 years with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, retired to Polk with his wife, Victoria.

Ira received the "Gold Award and was the 1970 Arbor Day Honoree and has a Citation for Excellent Service from Governor Exon. He says, "The crowning achievement of 26 years was to have Arbor Lodge at Nebraska City receive National Recognition." This was due because Ira promoted asking V.I.P.'s to Nebraska City on April 22, 1970. Mrs. Lyndon Johnson sent a disease free special elm tree for the event. It is now growing at the park.

Ira was Parks Superintendent at Arbor Lodge for 12 years. Before that he was Superintendent at Stolley Park. "They gave me two weeks notice to move as I was being transferred," says Ira.

His first 8 years of employment with Game and Parks was in charge of a crew called Habitat Restoration for Upland Game. They lived at McCook and later at Shelton.

Later for 4 years, and residing in Lincoln he was in charge of the Construction program in S.E. Nebraska (about 20 counties) for the Commission.

He likes retirement - and Polk.

Valley View Golf Club

Richard Sealey, Jr. is a director of the Valley View Golf Club south of Central City.

Polk's Admirals in Nebraska's Navy

Fourteen Polk people have received the "Admiral in Nebraska Navy" award. This is an award given by Nebraska governors to recognize citizens with worthy achievements. It originated in 1931 with Lt. Governor McKelvie making the first award, which is a certificate of honor making them a member in Nebraska's mythical navy. These fourteen people are Ed Coover, Glenn Babcock, Neil McNaught, Lloyd Hahn, Irvin and Mildred Anderson, Dwight and Grayce Burney, Norris Alfred, Beulah Gustafson, James and Alice Wilson and Oscar Sundberg and Lauretta Neuhaus.

Outstanding Farm Family

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Merchant in 1974 were recognized at the Agricultural Progress Conference as one of the outstanding Nebraska farm families.

Nebraska Layman of the Year

Oscar Sundberg was named Nebraska Layman of the Year for his service and leadership in Methodist Church activities.

Press Women President

Mrs. Dwight Burney has been state president of the Nebraska Press Women, also of Nebraska Goldhuskers.

She served six years as director of Easter Seal State Committee.

Mrs. Irvin Anderson was State Goldhusker Director for the "shut-ins."

Some 65 year olds of Polk recall making small knitted afghans for W. War I veterans when in the 4th grade.

Horse Shows

Horace Stevens has received the Pat Abbey Memorial trophy in 1967 for being the High Point Rider in the Nebraska Horse Clubs Association.

Funeral Directors

Mrs. Sam Wall, (Viola Brauer) who grew up in Polk, now lives at Hampton, but is owner of the Wall Funeral Home at Polk, was recently elected president of the Central Nebraska District 8 State Funeral Directors Association. This area serves 34 mortuaries. Vi has also held office on state committees.

Director

Leon Meerkatz, in 1970, was elected as director of the Nebraska Conservation Contractors Association.

District Honors

Everett Green, now of Lincoln has served as District Commander of the American Legion.

WOW Farm Family

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dobberstein and son Glen were honored as the Farm Family of the Week over WOW-TV a few years ago. He then farmed 400 acres, fed about 250 cattle each year, and managed four milking machines. They had 175 laying hens and about 200 hogs. Glen and his father were both 4-H leaders.

County Recognition

County Clerk

Mr. Norton served as County Clerk in 1906.

Polk County R.E.A.

M.G. Lindburg, Sr., who helped start the Polk County Rural Electric Association in 1935, has served as president for 32 years.

County Commissioners

Several Polk men have served as county commissioners. Burdette Flodman is chairman of the three man board.

Others who have served; Martin and Alvin Dahlin & son Don, Will Miller, Henry Lind, Freeman Hahn, Hugo Flodman, F.L. Horn and S.J. Harless.

Extension Board — 4-H Council

Verland Widga is 1974 chairman of the 4-H Council. Mrs. Rolland Stromberg, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Dobberstein, Mrs. Irvin Anderson and Mrs. Dwight Burney have also served on the Council.

Mrs. Burney, Mr. Widga, Lennis Lind and Paul Anderson have served on the Polk County Extension Board.

Polk County Welfare Director

Rev. Deryl Reed served as Polk County Welfare Director for many years.

Polk County Farmers Union

Parker Aker and M.G. Lindburg have served as county presidents.

Mrs. Dwight Burney is legislative chairman.

Polk County Fair Board

Gilbert Lampshire and Leslie Adelson are present directors.

Mrs. Dwight Burney is a former vice-president and director. Parker Aker also served.

County Community Service Boards

Farm Bureau

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Peterson, Mrs. Dwight Burney, Mrs. Wallace Sandell and Mrs. H.P. Tewell have served on the Polk County Board. Mrs. Burney and Mrs. Sandell have served in the state legislative capacities also.

Polk County Soil Conservation Board

Lennis Lind has been on the board of directors.

Polk County Republicans

Mrs. Dwight Burney served as county vice chairman, also as secretary for many years and is on the State Central Committee board. She organized the Polk County Republican Women and was it's first president.

Mrs. Reuben Hanquist is the present county president. Mrs. James Wilson and Mrs. Burney have served in the District Republican office and Mrs. Harold Carlson was vice president of Republican Women. Mrs. W. Sandell is county treasurer, and Mrs. Irvin Anderson is county historian.

Polk County Democrats

Mrs. Ben Peterson, now of Florida, served as County vice-chairman.

Polk County Bi-Centennial Committee

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Tyler are co-chairmen with the Gerhart Lux's of Osceola to head up this committee.

Polk County Historical Society

Mrs. Dwight Burney helped organize this group and was it's first president.

Polk County A.S.C.S.

Richard Sealey has been Polk County A.S.C.S. chairman for 26 years, 40 years on committee.

Polk County Weed Control

Carl Carlstrom is county supervisor. Dean Myers is a member. H.P. Tewell has been director for over 20 years and received the first aerial picture award given by Citizens State Bank for Conservation Contouring.

Polk County Credit Union

M.G. Lindburg and Wallace Sandell have served.

Polk County Scandinavian Insurance Company

Harold Anderson is on the Board of Directors.

Polk County Co-Op Oil Ass'n

Don Hanquist, Wallace Sandell, Neal Sandell, Duane Burney, and M.G. Lindburg have served. Paul Anderson is presently on the board.

Ellsworth Carlson

Ellsworth Carlson came back to the farm in 1972 after serving in the state capitol in charge of the Nebraska Weed and Seed Department in Agricultural Department for seven years.

County Sheriff

F.J. Hahn - 1898-1901. Others who have served; Martin and Alvin Dahlin & son Don, Will Miller, Henry Lind, Freeman Hahn.

When Your Life is Worthwhile
by M.F. Smith

A wave of the hand, a nod of the head, - a word of good morning to everyone said,
A smile on your face, a throb at your heart, and you're out in the world taking a part.

A bow to a friend, a hand to the old, a bushel of coal for the lonely and cold,
A word to the blind, a lift to the lame and you're out in the world making a name.

A call on the ill, a rose on the stand, some token of love that's been left by your hand.
A stand for the right, a fight against wrong, and You're dear to the world, your life is a song.

A message of peace and good will to all men was sent from on high, so pass it on then,
Enveloped in love, with grace and a smile, and you're Lifting up men, - your Life Is Worthwhile.

Also U.M. Minister, Rev. and Mrs. Robt. Hopkins have fostered 12 children. (4 in home at present) -1974-

Tomorrow's Citizens...

April 13-1973

'A Good Start In Life'

Love and concern will be the motives for a trip to Philadelphia, Pa., on April 26 for Mrs. Ralph Redman of Polk. As one of four delegates from the state, she will attend the national convention of Foster and Adoptive Parents' Club. Not only will Marsha Redman bring back information to the three Nebraska Clubs but will also receive valuable instruction for her own household.

For several years, the Redmans have been involved in long-term foster care and adoption. The course they have chosen has not been an easy one. Parents of two natural children, Wendy 16 and Matt, 14, they have known the heartbreak of losing two babies of their own. Wanting a larger family, the couple entered the state foster program. They asked for children who were physically handicapped or from a minority race. "Our first little boy was Ben," said Marsha, a pretty, vivacious blonde. "He was born with a cleft palate. The Crippled Children's Services under the auspices of Nebraska State Welfare, helped us with the initial plastic surgery. We've also used our own money because Ben, now nine needs continuing orthodontice care."

Nine months later, we took a three-day old baby, named Jason. He had a hole in his heart, but his condition was corrected by surgery and again we receive aid from the Crippled Children's Services. Jason came through it beautifully, and today is a healthy youngster." Both children were ultimately adopted by the Redmans.

The couple then fostered a three-month-old Indian girl who had adrenal problems. On Christmas Eve, 1972, little Shawni died suddenly of acute brain swelling. "When you get a child under the foster care program, you know ultimately that the child may be taken from your home," said Marsha recalling the sad event. "But not through death. It was heartbreaking for the whole family. She was such a part of our life."

The Redmans are currently fostering a 13-month-old girl, named Danielle. They hope to adopt her soon.

"Because of our experiences, we felt the need to talk to other foster parents about their situations-their problems," said Marsha who is a York native. "That's why we joined the Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Club. The organization itself was started by two, Lincoln foster mothers in 1971. They first drew up a list of foster families and called the involved women for a coffee. The initial meetings were gripe sessions. But these quickly evolved to evening meetings with the fathers, and club members began in earnest to aid and assist foster parents in better caring for the children they had taken in their homes."

Today, there are three clubs in Omaha, Lincoln and Grand Island. Their goal is to recruit new members and study health and welfare bills that could aid foster parents and children. Through the efforts of the state agency and the clubs themselves, foster parent liability insurance has been made available under a group plan at a nominal fee. Training and educational clinics are also held with social service agencies participating.

Along with her duties as an organization member and mother, Mrs. Redman serves as news editor for the club's publication printed by the Division of Social Services Department of Welfare. She is also interested in getting a Foster and Adoptive Parent chapter started in York County. "Anyone who is interested can contact me," said Marsha who is a woman of boundless energy. "I will supply them with agencies dealing in foster care. Remember our organization had nothing to do with placement of children."

Marsha also urges people who are not foster parents to help with the program. "By being a good neighbor to a foster child, can help immensely," said Marsha. "Be aware of what legislation can do to further foster care and support it. Help the child in every area you can.

"All of us must show love and concern. These children are tomorrow's citizens. We owe them a good start in life."

The Ralph Redmans of Polk are doing that very thing.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Redman of Polk are natural, foster and adoptive parents. Among the family's many activities are canoeing, hunting and fishing. Shown from left in the front row are Wendy, Ben and Jason. Ralph holds Danielle; Mrs. Redman and Matt.

Polking Around

Progress June 13-1974

If, at times, readers are inclined to wonder about their state government, they will probably continue to do so more frequently after reading the reply Gilbert Lampshire received from Elden D. Orth, Traffic Engineer, Department of Roads, State of Nebraska about highway 66 signs showing (6) miles from Hordville to Polk and (5) miles from Polk to Hordville:

Dear Mr Lampshire:

The question you raised while visiting the Nebraska Department of Roads booth at the State Fair in Lincoln has been referred to our office. You commented on the sign located at Hordville showing the distance to Polk and the sign at Polk showing the distance to Hordville and suggested that the mileage should be the same.

It has been our policy to show the mileage distance to the center of the business dist. since there are a number of locations that a driver could visit when traveling to a particular city or town. The sign at Hordville indicates that the distance to Polk is 6 miles. The actual distance along highway N-66 from Hordville to the street leading to the business center in Polk is 5.3 miles. The business center in Polk is located another 0.8 miles north of the highway making a total of 6.1 miles which was rounded to 6 miles on the sign. The actual distance along Higway N-66 from the west corporate limits of Polk to the street leading to the business center in Hordville is 5.0 miles. The business center in Hordville is located another 0.4 miles northwest of the highway making a total of 5.4 miles which was rounded to 5 miles on the sign.

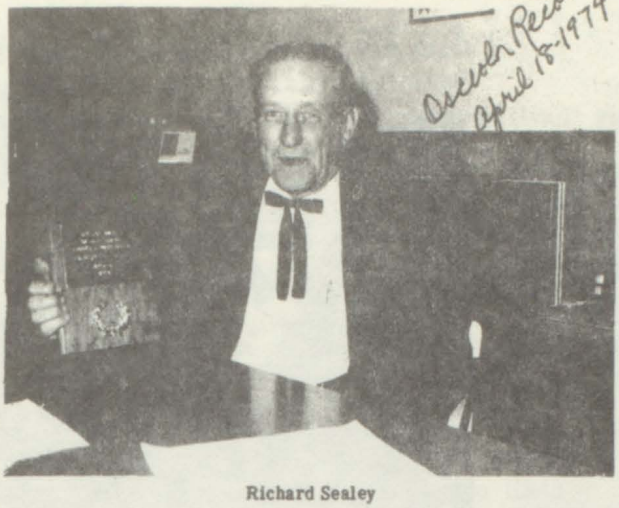
Thank you for visiting our booth at the State Fair and your concern for correct highway signing is appreciated. Hopefully I have provided an explanation to our mileage signing policies.

Eldon D. Orth

"The businesss center in Polk is located 0.8 miles north of the highway" would put the bustling Polk business houses in the middle of Dale Lindburg's cornfield.

Sealey Was Named County Committeeman Of The Year

Osceola Record April 18-1974



Richard Sealey

Richard C. Sealey, chairman of the Polk County ASC Committee, received an award on April 6 as the outstanding county committeeman in the state. The award was received from the Nebraska Association of the County Office Employees at their state convention which was held at Grand Island April 6 and 7.

Mr. Sealey has served the farmers of Polk County for nearly 40 years as a community committeeman, field employee and county committeeman.

Mr. Sealey has served as a county committeeman since he was first elected in 1948 and has been the chairman continuously since 1954.

Dick, as he is known by the farmers of the county, is serving his last year as a county committeeman. His present term expires December 31 and he will be unable to be elected to another term because of a change in election procedure in 1965 limiting the election of a committeeman to 3 terms of 3 years each, after the year of the change.

Dick has served the farmers of Polk County well over the last 25 years as a county committeeman and can be proud of his selection as the outstanding committeeman in the state.

Receives Award For 30 Years Of Service

POLK, NEBRASKA JUNE 6, 1974

Gerald Stevens, left, Polk rural mail carrier for 24 years, retired as May 9. He is shown with his wife, Dorothy, receiving a Service Award Certificate from Postmaster Don Hanquist representing Regional Postmaster General Clarence Gels. The award recognizes 30 years service by Gerald to the U.S. Postal Service. Before his appointment as rural mail carrier in 1950, Gerald served as clerk in the Polk postoffice. Gerald's father, Clyde, was rural mail carrier on the Polk route for 17 years. Gerald also received a Safety Award from the National Safety Council for 24 years of accident-free driving.

Roger Gustafson and his 9 lb., 4 oz. walleye,

We don't know of how much interest this picture will be of the 1930 Polk High School football squad. There wasn't too much equipment. You will notice there were only 14 helmets. Some of the football gear had seen better days. Back row: Glen Pickerel, Nathan Peterson, Orville Dobberstein, Dean Nelson, Lyle Cockle, Donavin Widga, My ron Peterson. Middle row: Harold Carlson, Rodney Anderson, Art Newton, Edward Larson, Donald Newton, Everett Green, Charles Henderson. Front row: Sidney Crow, Robert Lytle, Norris Alfred, Lorrel Branting, Johnny Strand, Lyle Dornburgh and Coach Fred Gilbert.

TANK WAGON MAN HAD THREE UNCOLLECTABLE ACCOUNTS

POLK—After 15 years and eight months of driving an oil company's tank wagon in the Polk area, Will Kroger has retired—pretty sure that "most people are honest and dependable."

"I've only had three accounts that I couldn't collect in the 15 years, and they were all for small amounts," he said in thanking friends and customers for a farewell banquet given in his honor. He added:

"The best part of the business has been dealing with so many nice people. I probably averaged about ten deliveries per day and sometimes made as high as 25 in one day, during harvest time. There were several hundred customers whose farms cover about 50 square miles."

Will Kroger

Because Kroger had always said he would do a lot of fishing when he retired, the Standard Oil Co. presented him with a set of fishing reels and rods.

Easter Seal Child JoElla Stromberg of Polk will be honored guest at tea

POLK — Gov. and Mrs. Norbert Tiemann will launch Nebraska's Easter Seal campaign March 1 with a "Meet the Easter Seal Child" Tea at the Governor's Mansion.

Honored guest at the 2-4 p.m. event will be 12-year-old JoElla Stromberg of Polk, recently named as Nebraska's 1969 Easter Seal child.

Not since the Polk high school basketball team won the Nebraska Class C championship has an event attracted so much attention around this community. Polk residents are preparing to go "all out" to support the Easter Seal drive in honor of JoElla, known as Polk's "Sunshine Girl."

JoElla was critically injured in an auto accident about three and a half years ago, while en route to Sunday School. Brain damage to nerve centers left her unable to swallow, sit, walk or talk.

Today, after continual therapy, special training and, with the assistance of a leg brace and walker, JoElla is able to walk, attend school, and even take part in 4-H activities. At the tea in her honor, she plans to stand in the receiving line, at least for part of the time.

On hand to meet Nebraska's 1969 Easter Seal Child will be representatives from the Society's county committees in every part of the state. Volunteers from as far as Scottsbluff are expected at the tea. Hostesses will be wives of Easter Seal board members.

During the Easter Seal campaign, which continues until April 1, courageous JoElla will represent all of Nebraska's crippled children.

Goal in the state drive is $200,000, which is used to provide physical and speech therapy, orthopedic and other medical equipment, transportation for schooling and treatments, summer camping programs, and a year-round information, referral and follow-up program.

JoElla's selection as Easter Seal Child has been excellent therapy for the girl, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Stromberg, have given her the patient, loving and long hours needed to help in her recovery.

Mrs. Anna Wurtz, 83, still known as one of the finest seamstresses in the area, has been busy making JoElla a special red, white and blue dress to wear to the Saturday event.

At the Polk-Palmer basketball game, enthusiasts from the two schools enjoyed participating in a "blanket toss" to contribute for the drive for crippled children. JoElla attends all games as does her 15-year-old brother, David, who has aided greatly in his sister's progress.

Girls of her 4-H club plan to attend Saturday's tea, as well as her Sunday School class, sixth grade classmates, aunts and uncles, two families coming from Iowa.

POLK'S FAVORITE . . . JoElla plans to stand in receiving line.

The American Legion is planning a special surprise for JoElla Saturday. The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a full page of advertising, space donated by the Polk Progress, to list names of all donors helping put Polk "over the top" in the local drive.

Polk School Camera Club, under the direction of Mrs. John Hedgewood, took JoElla's picture and made prints to use in local promotion. Mrs. Gilbert Lampshire will make some special bunny-shaped cookies for the Easter Seal Tea.

Wayne "Pa" Hill, Polk's oldest resident, commented in making a donation: "JoElla has always remembered me on my birthday and with Halloween and Christmas treats too, so I want to help."

Mrs. Glenn Hill, one of JoElla's first teachers after she missed a year of school, said "We often had after-school sessions and never once did she say 'I'm tired — let's quit.' She wanted to keep on sometimes longer than I did."

JoElla (nicknamed Joker) is known as Polk's Sunshine Girl because, before her accident, she brought sunshine to many other folks than Pa Hill. Each Mother's Day, she remembered someone who didn't have a child to remember. . .she laughed and talked with, and smiled at everyone, friend or stranger.

On Thursday morning, she will be presented to the Nebraska Legislature, and plans to invite them all to Saturday's event.

The Rev. Deryl Reed, JoElla's pastor, said of the tea: "I wouldn't miss it. I'm going to bring all my family."

"We don't pity JoElla, we admire her," commented Polk Mayor Dean Myers. "What she has done, other children can do. We hope she will be an inspiration for others to keep trying, and trying."

Over 300 Attend Easter Seal Child Tea At Governor's Mansion In Lincoln, Saturday

Shown receiving a check for over $400 is Betty Majors, right, chairman of the Polk County Easter Seal Committee. Don Miller, president of the Community Club presented the check at the Governor's Mansion, in Lincoln last Saturday. Also present are from the right, Mrs Tiemann, JoElla Stromberg, Dale Frizzell, Polk County Clerk and member of the County Easter Seal Committee and Dean Myers, chairman of the Polk village board.

By Mrs Dwight Burney

Over 300 persons attended the Easter Seal Child tea at the Governor's Mansion at Lincoln on Saturday, March 1st, honoring JoElla Stromberg. About 200 of the group knew JoElla personally, with approximately 175 from Polk—the rest friends or relatives from Omaha, Lincoln, Osceola, Wahoo, Clarks, Columbus, Stromsburg and Battle Creek, Iowa.

Mrs Norbert Tiemann, JoElla and her parents were in the receiving line. Mrs Lloyd Stromberg, an aunt and Mrs Glenn Hill, former teacher, registered the guests. Mrs Irvin Anderson, and Mrs Gilbert Lampshire were in charge of the serving with Penny Bills, and Eilene Hanson of Polk also Mrs Merle Stromberg of Wahoo and Mrs Chas. Stromberg of Lincoln assisting.

Jo Ella Stromberg and Gov. Tiemann are listening to someone, as they stand at the tea table.

Television coverage as well as newspaper reporters were present with 35 pictures taken by a commercial photographer. Gov. Tiemann mingled with the guests and was photographed with many Polkites.

The Polk Legion "kicked off" the Polk County Drive by presenting Ellis Dann, State President of the Easter Seal Committee, a check for $100. The Community Club, represented by Don Miller, gave Mrs Jim Majors, Polk County chairman, a check for over $400, representing private donations to help raise the Polk County quota, which is $1050 for the 7000 residents of the county.

Nancy Armstrong, Lincoln, provided music at the grand piano, at the mansion for the events. Nebraska Miss Teenager, Miss Susan Herman of Wilbur was present and invited JoElla to Omaha Monday, March 10th where an appearance over Channel 3 will show Susan giving JoElla a Czech doll from her community.

Mrs Gilbert Lampshire presented Jo Ella with a corsage and also furnished one for the Lancaster County Easter Seal Child, Kathy Carver, who was present.

Many Polk folks were seen on KOLN-TV, Lincoln and an Omaha TV station.

Following the 2 to 4 P. M. event Jo Ella and her parents, and Ellis Dann visited the 70 children in the Orthopedic Hospital in Lincoln, presenting them with decorated, bunny-shaped cookies.

Polk persons providing cookies were Mesdames Clarence Rahrs, Gilbert Lampshire, Irvin Anderson Oscar Sundberg and Glen Babcock.

THE Columbus DAILY TELEGRAM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1969 COLUMBUS, NEB. PAGE

LOCAL EASTER SEAL FUND DRIVE IS OVER $525

Hobbies That Became Profitable $

Mrs. B. Baack

Mrs. B. Baack, the former Lillie Brauer, who lived southwest of Polk, made and sold aprons. She made hundreds of them, of all sizes, types and colors.

The Baacks have since moved to York.

Mrs. Gilbert Lampshire

Known as the "flower lady" of Polk, Mrs. Gilbert Lampshire, for 11½ years furnished flowers, reception accessories, etc., for weddings. Oftentimes the mother of the bride and the bride liked her services so well, a few years later, another daughter bride-to-be, came for help and guidance. Flowers were very prettily made into the "bride's color choice."

She was assisted by her husband. The Lampshires furnished wedding flowers for as many as 5 weddings in one day. They traveled to Central City, Marquette, Hordville, Archer, Aurora, Henderson and Sutton to name a few in a 50 mile radius, also to Lincoln and Omaha. About 800 - 1000 weddings and receptions and anniversaries were catered in the 11½ years. She sold the business and equipment to Mrs. Paul Troester of Hampton and mother Mrs. B. Baack in 1971.

Mrs. C. J. McCoy

Mrs. C. J. McCoy is 89 years of age, but still makes and sells lovely pin cushions, resplendent with spools of thread. She has quilted 30 lovely quilts for children and grandchildren.

She has also crocheted around many coat hangers, giving most of them as gifts to relatives and friends.

She also crochets centerpieces, dresser scarves and edgings.

Shown in picture are: Mrs. Harold Bedient, Mrs. McCoy, and Mrs. Edith Hunter.

Mrs. H. P. Tewell

Mrs. H. P. Tewell has an interesting hobby of making various craft articles. She "puts together" various things, among them safety pins to make jewelry, and takes marbles, fires them to make small ornamental dogs and other animals. Mrs. Tewell sells her novelties through various stores in nearby towns.

Ronald Tewell

Ronald Tewell is a gun repair man when he isn't busy farming or helping raise pigs on his father's farm. He likes guns, has a collection of his own, and is kept busy selling and repairing.

Mrs. Lyle Widga

Mrs. Lyle Widga at one time assisted Mrs. G. Lampshire with making flower arrangements, etc. for weddings. Mrs. Widga made and decorated cakes for special events also.

Mrs. Don Widga

Mrs. Don Widga makes and decorates cakes for weddings and anniversaries.

"I've taken quite an interest in the Australian method of decorating cakes; it's more intricate and detailed. The lace design is so intricate that I actually had a person ask me if I had laid a lace handkerchief on the cake."

She can produce any picture or design she chooses on a cake and has a notebook of dozens of pictures taken of cakes baked, including the one shown here, artistically drawn and made for an American Legion celebration.

Irving Wize

Irving Wize, former village cop and blacksmith had a "side line" that for several years was a profitable venture. He raised green house tomatoes for sale to the Polk grocery store, house wives of the Polk area and to several other grocery stores at nearby towns.

The tomatoes were of the new type, solid and good and sold for about 50 cents a pound, or more during the winter months.

Mr. Wize had only one arm, so the tomato raising was a family-helping affair. The Wizes have since moved to the Grand Island area.

His type of gardening was called hydroponic, using much peat moss and fertilizer.

Willits Craft Shop

Mrs. Robert Willits has been making plastic articles from resin for six or seven years. This past year she decided to open a shop at her home. She sells plastic grapes for table decorations and napkin holders as well as other novelties. Fur flowers and greeting cards are also sold at the farm home north of Polk.

Mrs. Viola Ziegelbien

Mrs. Viola Ziegelbien has quilted 120 lovely quilts the past 11 years, many of them reversible. Many were made from percale colored sheets, embroidered, some not, all very lovely.

She has made afghans and crochets for herself and family.

Travels

Polk Persons Who Have Traveled "Abroad"

Around the world has gone James Wilson. He and his wife have traveled to all the continents, and to many islands. James and Francis Flood crossed Africa by motorcycle - the first white men to do so.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Burney have traveled extensively. They were Farm Leaders to Pakistan, also visited India in 1966. They have been to the Holy Land, to Egypt, Japan, Hong Kong, and Mrs. Burney has been to Korea and all the 50 states. Both have been to 9 European countries, Mexico, and Canada.

Visiting in Europe have been Mrs. H. Horstman, Mrs. Eddie Saylor, Jane Fredrickson, Patricia Funk, Kay Nielson, and Lois Johnson. Mrs. Irvin Larson and Mrs. Lloyd Widga visited in Europe in 1925. Mrs. Oscar Anderson and Phillip Johnson have been to Sweden, and Mrs. Leonard Warnick has been to England.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Stewart went with a banker's group to Russia.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Lampshire visited their son and family in South America.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Tyler toured the Holy Lands and have also visited their son and wife in Australia. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harrington also have visited Australia.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Merchant visited Japan in 1972.

To Alaska have been Messrs and Mesdames Oscar Sundberg, Lloyd Stromberg, Earl Stevens, Gilbert Lampshire, and also Mrs. Dwight Burney.

To Hawaii have been Floyd Millers, K. Stewarts, Glenn Stevens, James Lindburgs, Oliver Bakers, Mrs. Hazel Johnson, Mrs. Irvin Anderson, Dwight Burneys, Karen Stevens, and M.G. Lindburgs.

Many Polk men have gone to Canada to fish in the fall. Nick McNaught, Glenn Hill, Glen Babcock, Harold, Reuben, Lee, Kent, Leonard Anderson, Ray Warner, Pat Newton, Harold Lenz, Sam Wall, Marvin Fredrickson and Don Ostberg.

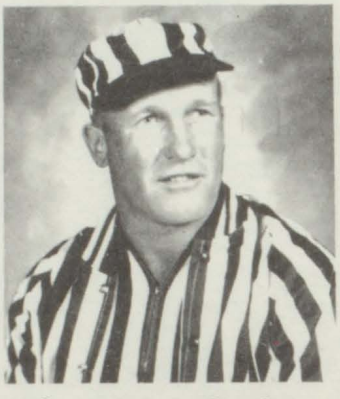
Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Anderson visited the Panama Canal, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Anderson have gone to Jamaica.

Natalie Hahn has traveled to all the continents of the world.

AkSarBen

AkSarBen at Omaha has recognized several organizations and individuals of the Polk community for their outstanding Good Neighbor deeds. These are Mrs. James Wilson, Mrs. Rolland Stromsburg, Mrs. Dwight Burney, Albert Sundberg, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Babcock, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Sundberg, Mrs. Wayland Flodman, Mrs. Irvin Anderson, Gilbert Lampshire, Larry Johnson, Rev. Edick Anderson, Andy Carlson, Mrs. Forrest Anderson, Mrs. James Lindburg, Norris Alfred, Mrs. Hannah Anderson, the "Wide Awakes" Sunday School Class of the Methodist Church, the Trinity Lutheran Ladies Organization, the Pleasant Homemakers 4-H Club, the Methodist Visiting Wesleyans, the Polk Garden Club, the Polk Commercial Club, and the Junior High Group of the Methodist Church.

RICHARD SEALEY, JR. - Referee 23 Years



Polk folks traveling over the state are often asked when they state their address - "Polk, that's where 'June' Sealey lives, isn't it?" (June is short for Junior.)

June is a busy farmer, but he also finds time for a job he loves, refereeing athletic events.

He started 23 years ago at age 22 and has been kept busy throughout central Nebraska - east to Omaha, west to North Platte, north to Randolph and south to the Kansas line.

He started umpiring baseball games in the old Cornhusker League. He has umpired some years as many as 50 games at various levels including high school, small colleges and Big 8 Universities, American Legion, A.L. State Tournament 12 years, National one year, six State A.L. Tournaments and American Legion Little World Series.

"June" has also worked a full football schedule every year since 1951, all in central Nebraska. He had the honor of being selected to referee the Shrine All-Star football game in 1968.

Since 1951, he has also been busy refereeing basketball at all classes of high school and also Jr. College level. Some years he has officiated at as many as 70 games, but usually 40 to 50 in a season.

He was chosen as one of the officials for the first Shrine All-Star Basketball game in Nebraska.

He has been chosen to work in State Basketball Tournaments 3 years.

Congenial, friendly "June" is indeed a busy guy - his wife says she generally goes along to the games as she's a sports enthusiast also.

Five Generations

There are a number of three generation families and even quite a few four generation families in this area, but three families of Polk area are five generations, all living.

Ray Sealey, age 89, former Polkite at Denver has a son Richard, Sr. at Polk, grandson, Richard, Jr., great-grandson Dennis, and great-great-grandson, Greg.

The Clifford Branting family is another five generation family (3 ways).

Cliff, age 83, resides at Parkview at Central City, his daughter, Mrs. Claude (Frances) Branting at Clarks, granddaughter Mrs. Virginia McCullough at Lincoln, great-granddaughter Claudia Pollzkill and son Matthew at Denver, Colorado.

Frances has another daughter, Mrs. Doris Mustard of Vallejo California whose family tree would get to five also.

Another daughter of Cliffs' - Annabelle (Mrs. Reuben) Swanson of Polk, just a month ago became five on the family tree also.

Mrs. Anna Wurtz, age 90, has this distinction. She lives now at Midwest Covenant Home. Shown also are her daughter Mrs. Margaret Jones, granddaughter Mrs. Beverly Bills, great-granddaughter Mrs. Penny Boyle, York, and great-great-granddaughter, 3 months old Heather.

Mrs. Anna Wurtz has five generations three ways. Mrs. Wurtz, Margaret Jones, Max Jones, Connie Ang, Kevin Ang, - also - Mrs. Wurtz, Margeret Jones, Max Jones, Donnette Shenk and Angela Dawn.

Personality Sketches

Friendship

Life is sweet because of friends we have made
And the things which in common we share,
We want to live on, not because of ourselves
But because of the people who care.
It's in giving, and doing, for somebody else
On all that life's splendor depends
And the joys of this life, when you've summed it all up
Are found in the making of friends.

Lawrence Ackerman

Lawrence Ackerman, who died at age 79 in May, 1974, was Polk's oldest bicycle rider. He rode one for years. He did have an old car, a 1940 Chevrolet, which he herded around occasionally on trips to as far away as Grand Island.

He lived in a room in Polk's old hotel and was a familiar sight on main street. He was a man who spent his life observing. He was pleasant, knowledgable, and ready to chat.

A compulsive eater, he seemed to be constantly chewing on something. What he didn't eat of his meal at a local cafe, he fed to cats and dogs on main street. Often he'd give a hamburger to a hungry animal. They seemed to know he'd feed them and were often seen watching for him to come out of the eating establishment.

As a loner, he probably gained purpose knowing there was some life dependent on him.

Judith Adelson

Judith composed many religious poems and this was found among her notes, whether original or not, it speaks for her: "I'm thankful for all the good with which I've been blessed through my life, For hardships and heartaches, too For failures, trials and strife,--I'm thankful for each little prayer someone has said for me For loving rights for friendliness for all good will I see My thanks for hands with which I could serve someone on life's way--For all small deeds of kindness I'm allowed to do each day I'm thankful for all happiness each long hour of the day God in his great mercy gives more wisdom for tomorrow." Judith Henrietta Adelson was loved by all.

Judy Adelson

Judy, at age 25, was killed in a car accident. She was the daughter of Leslie Adelsons.

Judy was one of Polk's nicest youth, friendly to young or old, a home girl who loved her home town and Polk friends.

In Judy Adelson's purse the night she died was found a notebook with this poem: A candle is but a simple thing--It starts with just a bit of string, Yet dipped and dipped with patient hand--it gathers wax upon the strand. Until complete and snowy while, it gives at last a lovely light Life seems so like that bit of string,--Each deed we do a simple thing Yet day by day if on life's strand We work with patient heart and hand It gathers joy, makes dark days bright and Gives at last a lovely light.

Norris Alfred

A molder of public opinion, the editor of the Polk Progress; stands unique in various things.

A bachelor, he loves to paint and has had art showings in larger cities, but few Polk folks are aware of these special skills. He's quiet for the most part, but does have definite opinions on various subjects.

There's no stauncher democrat than Pedro, through the years, no stauncher supporter and helper for Polk's annual Bean Days than Pedro.

His editorials (democrats are in the minority in Polk) are read by all, and although we may not agree, we respect his right to write as he feels.

I doubt if any weekly newspaper in Nebraska so clearly carries it's political badge by it's editor expressed in writing as that of the Polk Progress. Polk likes him. His family is one of Polk's oldest

Miss Nell Aker

Few folks, if any in Polk, know the Bible as well as Nell Aker who lives with her sister-in-law Mrs. Parker Aker. She is 87 years old.

But it's her interpretation of the Bible, her dry wit, her congenial personality, her ability to apply and picture the Bible that has made her Bible Study courses at Polk Methodist Church so popular.

Nell attended Peru College and graduated from the University of Nebraska. She taught in high schools of Nebraska and South Dakota and did private tutoring about 50 years.

She has been confined to her home due to a fall, but a visit with her leaves you inspired and smiling. Her friendly concern for the problems of relatives and friends, her ready smile, and cheery remarks make one wish there were more Nell Akers in this world.

Laura Bolton

Retiring in 1973 from 19 years of cooking for Polk school children is Mrs. Laura Bolton, who lives across from the school house.

She recalls that she first started cooking for about 185 students, but it grew to about 300 pupils and teachers. Many commodities were received over the years, the main things being flour, cornmeal, rice,

dried milk and in the latter years meats such as hamburger, chicken, turkey and roasts. Cheese, shortening and peanut butter were also available.

She believed hot dogs and hamburgers were the children's favorite meat foods, and that any dessert made with chocolate was bound to be eaten. Mrs. Bolton in the first years spent much time going through books and magazines for recipes, but in the latter years the state program offered recipe helps. Prices for lunches have ranged from 25¢ to 40¢.

Her children are Mrs. Don Hanquist of Polk and Bud Bolton of Lincoln.

The school children miss Laura - she was pleasant, kind and helpful always.

"I'm going to miss them", adds Mrs. Bolton.

Flower Lovers

Mrs. Karl Dethloff — Martha and Ellen Larson

Three persons "stand out" in memory of being tops in Polk in the giving of their flowers. The Karl Detloffs could be depended upon to furnish for any Methodist Church event, or if you wanted flowers for a special occasion "ask Marie, she's bound to have something in bloom".

In the Baptist church, it was the Larson sisters, Ellen and Martha who gave of the bounty of their hearts and garden, lovely flowers to decorate the church pulpit, Ladies meetings, anniversaries or special events.

Remembered also by Polk folks are the lovely flowers grown and shared by Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Baker in south Polk.

Wilbur Drown

I remember Wilbur, Rev. Wilbur Drown, an optimist, a helper, a leader. He was the son of an early Free Methodist minister and in his youthful days at Polk, he was known, as one of Polk's most mischievous lads.

He grew to manhood, became a minister - had various charges over the U.S. He returned with his wife to live at Central City. He became a public relations personnel director for the Nebraska Farmers Union. One of his best known accomplishments was his working with youth at camp. He played with them, he inspired them and he taught them. He also worked with an Indian School in South Dakota for several years.

He was supply pastor at Polk Baptist Church. He not only preached a good sermon, but he was an excellent singer. At his death, following a lingering illness of cancer, some of the songs he loved best, sung by him were played at his funeral.

The counsel he gave, the joy he brought is known to those who held him dear and called him friend. His messages will go on and on. He brought cheer, hope and laughter - he soothed aching hearts. When he became ill, he said, "I hope I can live the words I have told others."

He never stored up many worldly gifts, but I'm sure he had riches in Heaven. I can hear him singing now "Will There Be Any Stars In My Crown".

Too many people fashion their lives after French bread--one long loaf!!!!

Arnon Dover - Polk's Next to the Oldest Male Resident

Arnon Dover was 87 years of age in October of 1973. He lives in an apartment at the Polk Hotel Building.

His hobby is "fiddlin", and he is the third generation of fiddlers in the Dover family. There is a piano also in his apartment, as well as a number of valuable violins (15).

By profession, Arnon was a farmer and still owns 80 acres of land near Polk. When he was 80 he was doing most of the farming of the land himself, but he has gotten a little older and rents it out now to custom operators.

Although he reads music he plays most of the time by ear. He learned how to repair the bow the hard way. Fred Seebhom, a Grand Island Music operator, had been doing it for him. He became ill and told Arnon, "I need a man to help me, I'll teach you how and you can have a job." The first bow he rehaired took him all afternoon. He later rehaired bows for fiddlers from as far away as Ogallala. He often does major repair work on the bodies and completely rebuilds some that cannot be repaired.

Another job that Arnon has done, that few Polk folks know about is installing lightening rods. "An orphan boy living with us had been doing that sort of work. He left and left rods at the home and told me I could carry on, only he didn't tell me how to do it. But a farmer came and wanted rods installed, so I tackled the job. One job led to another, but at 80 years of age, I called it quits."

Arnon was born at Linden, Iowa, came to Polk County at six months of age and lived in a sod house for a year southeast of Polk. The family lived a year at Stromsburg, then in 1888 his father bought the farm 3 miles from Polk.

Mr. Dover is a member of the Masonic Lodge. He served over 25 years on the East Pleasant Home Election board (his father served before him on this board.)

His pride and joy is the 100 year old Gagliano violin. He is a charter member of the Nebraska Fiddlers Association.

Pleasant to meet and greet, Arnon is seen on Polk streets each day, although he now weighs less than 100 lbs. and suffers from asthma.

P. J. Garten

P. J. Garten, store keeper, philanthropist, helper, was the grocery store owner who originated putting a sack of candy in with the groceries in the Polk area. How he was loved!

They were loved for other things also. Mrs. Garten was leader of the Youth Group of Girls of the Methodist Church, P. J. as he was called was always available to help out for service of any kind in the church or in the community.

The ready smile of the Gartens, who sold everything from staples of food to overalls, piece goods and shoes, lived by the Golden Rule. By hard work and thrifty management, they were able to buy some land north of Polk.

Mrs. Garten wrote in October 18, 1956 issue of a paper of her most unusual customer.

"On consigment, I bought a large order of ladies hats. One day two ladies came into the store. The one just sat down, but the other busied herself trying on hats. She and her sister exchanged thoughts about them. After careful examination she bought a hat.

Not until she fumbled a bit, as she reached for the proper money to pay, did I learn that she was blind."

Mrs. H. Horstman

If you wanted a poem for a special occasion, one she would make up, or one she had in her scrapbook, ask Mrs. Emma Horstman. Also, if you needed a book review for a special program, ask Mrs. Horstman. Memories of pathos and tears linger on.

Mrs. Horstman has aged since those active 25 years of being a Polk School teacher, and those years of being Junior Sunday School Superintendent in Baptist Churches. It is always a pleasure to stop in and see this lady, who served so many years as librarian, and who still reads the latest books and keeps that smile on her dial.

"Pa" Wayne Hill

He lived, listened, loved, and had no enemies!! He was 98 when he died. He had a chuckle, a sense of humor that was contagious. "I don't let things bother me".

He liked best a good game of pitch at a nickel and a dime a set, and a good chew of snuss! He was a staunch democrat and shortly before he died said, "I never voted for a Republican except Dwight Burney."

He rode in many of Polks Bean Day parades, always in a rocking chair on the back end of son Glenn's pick-up throwing out candy and gum to the children along the streets. He was always cheered as he rode by.

He often told pioneer stories, of hard times, Indians, kerosene lamps, pigpen cobs and farm experiences to the children that his daughter-in-law taught. He expected a negative answer when the youth were asked "Would you like to have been living then? But one boy answered, "I sure would have! Pa Hill laughed the loudest. His stories sounded exciting to the inexperienced.

On his 98th birthday he was visited by many friends and received a number of cards. He had a surprise for each of those who remembered him, a pencil imprinted with the following: "Pa" Wayne Hill, 98 years young, says "Keep a Smile on Your Dial". It was his last birthday anniversary.

Mrs. J.E. McDaniel - the Librarian

Soft-spoken, well read Mrs. McDaniel. How I enjoyed going to the library and having her tell me which book was "best" for a girl of my age to read, what books were just for older people.

She dressed simply, almost severely. She, in my presence, at least, never raised her voice, to admonish her two children, even when it appeared they needed it. She never seemed to be in a hurry - she never seemed to get angry.

She was a patient and kind music teacher, too. She was the librarian for many years.

Every once in a while, every 2 or 3 months, she rode the "Bug" (train) to Lincoln, to carefully select the books which would, in her mind, affect the culture and training of old and young at Polk. As few folks could afford magazines if available, most everyone checked out books. We worried about the "over-due" fines, carefully recorded. We were influenced deeply by Librarian Mrs. McDaniel.

Her daughter, Mildred Forrester, (graduate of 1926) teaches school at Merriman, Paul's last known address was in Wyoming.

The Lady Who Gives and Gives — Mrs. John Myers

Mrs. John Myers has given away more handmade rugs than there are people in Polk. Many of them of course, have gone to relatives and friends out of town, but all have been given with a spirit of love. Mrs. Myers is one of Polk's first ladies, having come here in 1882 from Ohio.

"My husband's folks were Baptist, so I sent my children to the Baptist Church, but I've always been a Methodist," she confided as she gave one of her round, about three feet across, homemade rugs to be used at the Methodist Church entrance. The occasion was a May-honor senior citizen's program, when the accomplishments of Mrs. Myers were lauded.

Mrs. Myers does not have a lot of worldly goods, but when she gives away a rug and the recipient wants to pay her she says, "I have enough, I don't need the money". Asked why she didn't sell them, she responded, "If I sold them, some wouldn't be pleased, the color, the workmanship, or size. She recently completed over 1000 rugs.

August F. Nelson

We reprinted the article written by Norris Alfred of this man who made his home at the Polk "hotel". His wife died in 1945, he died in 1960. They had seven children.

* * *

The death of August Nelson last Thursday brought sorrow to Main St. August was a familiar figure to all the inmates of the street. He was always cheerful. He never could quite remember how many great grand children he had. He figured there were 20 or more. He was a faithful post-office patron, checking his box morning and night for letters. In the past year, he remarked how impossible it was for him to write a letter. He couldn't control his writing hand. He had ideas about learning to operate a typewriter. We told him he could come in the Progress office and punch out a letter anytime he wanted to give it a try. He never attempted it. He kept his room in the hotel neat and clean. Did his own cooking and housework. During the years the kindergarten and first grade were housed in the hotel, he was grandpa to all the children, and it was a lonely time for him when the two classes were moved to the school house. August told of the time he was trying to thread a needle in order to sew a button on a shirt. He poked the thread at the needle, time after time, but the hands were too shaky to make accurate contact. He had to call one of the school teachers to help him out. Towards the last he had difficulties with shoes. August said he could get one shoe on fairly easily but the other shoe had to be braced against the wall while he pushed his foot into it. Buttoning his shirt became a several minute chore while the stiff fingers fumbled with button and buttonhole. He daily overcame all these difficulties and was always on time at the postoffice for the daily mail. Such was August Nelson's life in his last years, and he enoyed every minute of it. He liked to be around people. There was the time he spent several weeks at the farm home of one of his daughters. He said his only gripe about farm life was when he walked out of the house. The only thing to look at was the barn. He was glad to be back on Main St. again. There better be a Main St. up in heaven, because August will be an unhappy angel without one.

Mrs. August Nelson

Who of Polk's "old-timers" doesn't remember Mrs.

August Nelson, the mother of Mrs. Russel Fjell of near Polk? She was a wonderful person: kind and loving.

When she died in 1945, her obituary told of her "Good Neighbor Deeds". She had helped Polk doctors deliver over 300 babies, had been the community cook for weddings, conventions, anniversaries and other gather ngs. Her jovial ability, her fun stores, still live on, for those who knew her best will recall her good cheer, her optimism, her ability to "take over any situation", her laughter, and her ability to "make do". Her life is described in a poem written by O. F. Alfred. It is reprinted here:

IN MEMORIAM

A letter came today that told
In somber, mounful tones,
How God called in but recently
Another of His loans.

So Mary Nelson's dead, you say?
But that, sir, cannot be.
She'll live forever in the lives
Of our community.

Her death's a loss to all our town?
Well, I for one, don't see
How anything that Mary does
A loss to Polk could be.

In every action of her life
Our town gained something rare;
And I can't count her death a loss
We still gain something there.

We gain a memory of one
Whose selfless soul will be
Enshrined in hearts that worship Him
Who walked by Galilee.

The Heaven that I've heard described
Has not appealed to me
Too staid and stately—not enough
Of personality

But now since Mary's there I think
That I shall try to be
The kind of man who'll someday join
That joyous Company.

For I don't want to miss the fun
I'll answer that last call
Where Mary is I know there'll be
A joyful time for all.

—Orrin F. Alfred

Mrs. Clarence Rehrs

For 20 years, Mrs. Rehrs baked and decorated and delivered cakes for weddings and anniversaries. The largest was a tiered one to serve 500.

She and her husband have delivered as many as four wedding cakes in one day. Omaha is the farthest away, with Lincoln, Hebron, and
with Lincoln, Hebron, and Genoa being quite some distance for deliveries also.

She averaged about two a week, so that makes over 2000 cakes that have been made by her.

Phillip Sack

Nostaligc memories of Phillip Sack linger among Polk "old timers".

The Sack Lumber Co. was owned by the Sack family and Phillip managed the Polk branch.

He was a bachelor. He loved music. He was a good piano and organ player, he also could play a tune on most any kind of an instrument.

He knew music, he played music, he taught music. Phillip Sack and music were synonomous.

Oscar Strand

A large man, of heart, and physical body, was Oscar Strand. Owner of the local lumber yard, which he owned and operated with his sons, he was always busy.

Mayor of the town, chairman of the Methodist Church board, he kept in contact with Polk's people.

A Polk lady, widowed, with small children, who was having a difficult time to feed and clothe them, said several times he came to the back door with a couple pounds of hamburger, or a roast and was quickly gone with a "the Bible tells me to remember the widows." "I doubt if he really knew how much I needed that meat."

I recall the Sunday morning after a dear son was involved in a car accident the night before. There was to be a church meeting regarding a special issue before church. We expected the church chairman would not feel like attending, but he did. He tried to smile as he said, "I didn't feel like coming this morning, but I couldn't help my son by staying home. I want to help make important decisions."

He was one of Polk's important men.

Mrs. Rolland Stromberg

There'll never be another Elaine Stromberg. She rises and shines on every occasion.

She came to Polk from Iowa as the sponsor of a Womanless Wedding performance, met and married bachelor Rolland.

She's often seen in Polk, dressed in slack suit or farm attire. Her smile is so contagious, her greeting so much like Elaine, that you chuckle in return.

She's M.C.'d many a "doings" for relatives and friends. She's helped plan something different for various social church, Legion Aux., or club functions.

Her general attitude is contagious. She knows and greets everyone.

Oscar Sundberg

Oscar and his brother Albert were different in looks and in personality. But both loved their fellowman and church. Oscar too sang in the choir, served on the church board and often taught a Sunday School Class.

Although now blind, as article elsewhere tells about, he still clerks and works in the store he owns, Sundberg Hardware, founded by his father. He and his wife Violet, a Sunday School teacher and also a regular church attendant will observe their 50th wedding anniversary in November of 1974.

A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

"Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but above all, the power of going out of one's self, and appreciating whatever is noble and loving in others".

--Thomas Hughes.

A.E. Swanson

The Lincoln Journal has this story in June 10, 1955 issue.

June 10, 1955—P.M.

A. E. Swanson Of Polk Is Dead at 71

POLK — Andrew E. Swanson, 71, longtime Polk resident and one of Nebraska's most colorful political figures, died Friday after a short illness.

The retired farmer whose political trademark was a handlebar mustache appeared frequently as candidate for state and congressional offices. He ran unsuccessfully for Republican nominations for governor, lieutenant governor and Third District representative.

Mr. Swanson

In 1952 he switched his political affiliation to the Democratic party. In the last election before his death, the 1954 Democratic primary, he received 12,633 votes for the party's gubernatorial candidate and finished third in a field of four.

Born in St. Edward, Mr. Swanson had lived in Polk the last 40 years.

Mrs. Swanson, who was a lovely seamstress and fine homemaker, whose pleasant, patient personality, made many friends, died in 1974.

A daughter Goldie Swanson lives at Stromsburg, Gladys Carlson in Virginia; Edwin and Alvin of California.

Mr. Swanson is recalled by Polkites as a person who had a lot of ideas and read a lot.

Dr. David H. Westfall

If you are a Polk "old timer" you're bound to remember Doc Westfall, family doctor of this area for 30 years.

Robust, rigorous, perhaps a bit rough in language and actions at times, he had a personality all his own.

He delighted in harmless jokes and humorous remarks. He had time to talk to everyone, old or young. He was often known to sit on the street corner and remark as a person passed away, "I ushered him into this world." Shortly before his death in 1939, he said he had delivered over 1,000 babies.

Young children clamored for his attention, he was their friend. Many a penny often gladdened the heart of a little boy or girl.

Doc came to Polk in 1907, became Polk's first mayor. He was an IOOF member, also Commercial Club member. His "wise cracks" there often brought smiles and chuckles.

Dr. Westfall's wife was later postmistress at Polk. His son Dr. Dana was a dentist in Alaska, Polk, and Grand Island. Their home and Dr. Dana's dental office was the home now owned and remodeled by Mrs. Parker Aker.

Mrs. Anna Wurtz

Mrs. Anna Wurtz, age 90 was Polk's dressmaker, for many years.

She sewed for the Pep Club girls of Polk High School, she sewed for the Cheerleaders of Polk Elementary Grades and High School and she sewed for many of their mamas and grandmas too.

She has sewn for men also, making lovely outfits for small boys and big boys.

In some families, like the Will Stevens, she sewed 3 generations, Paul and Arlo Stevens, Lloyd Hahn, Glenn Hill. Natalie Hahn, 5 ft. 10" was voted, when at the University of Nebraska one of the ten best dressed girls on the campus. She attributed much of the honor to Mrs. Wurtz, who made clothes "just right" - they fit and had "class".

Her daughter Mrs. Oscar (Margaret) Jones, now carries on the neat fits, the classic tailoring, the nice visits, when she makes a dress, suit or coat for Polk, Stromsburg or other folks.

Wayne Hill - Grant Willits

Two folks who will long be remembered by Polk folk are: Wayne "Pa" Hill, a staunch Democrat who died at age 98 and Grant Willits, a staunch Republican whose age was 98 at the time of his death.

Both were "old timers" of this area and stories of their lives are found elsewhere.

Phillip Johnson--"Sweet Music"

The Burneys at the home of Nebraska's First Lady. Mrs. K. Neville of No. Platte, Gov. & Mrs. Exon, former Gov. & Mrs. R. Crosby and Mrs. Ralph Brooks.

Stories of Folks "Friendly Folks"

POLK (NEBR.) PROGRESS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1971

Mrs. Mildred Anderson Newest Winner of "Golden Rule Award" For Service

A nationwide radio audience today heard an outstanding honor bestowed on a 4-H club leader of Polk county, Mrs. Mildred Florence Anderson, of Polk, Nebraska, who is the newest winner of the coveted "Golden Rule Award" for good neighborliness and community service.

Announcement of the presentation was made on the "Tell Your Neighbor" radio program, the popular Walter Mason show broadcast over Lincoln's Station KOLN, and the entire network of the Mutual Broadcasting System.

Included with Mrs. Anderson's citation were a specially engraved certificate of membership in the Golden Rule Club, and a handsome flatware service for eight in the new "May Queen" pattern of Holmes & Edwards Sterling Inlaid silverplate. 1952

The Fruide hotel looked after the wants of 28 hungry Greeks last Saturday night about 12 o'clock, who came from David City on the west bound passenger train to shovel out the west bound freight which got lodged in a snow bank six feet deep, two miles east of Polk. They used the waiting room of the depot for their sleeping headquarters and returned to David City Sunday afternoon on a special train. 1912

Corn Picking Bee Harvest Over 100 Acres

More than one hundred acres of corn were harvested in less than three hours last Wednesday for the family of the late Dean Ostberg. The harvesting crew totaled 86 with nineteen combines. Twenty ladies served a hot noon meal to the crew in the basement of the Swede Plain church. The food was furnished by 57 women of the Polk community.

Anna Kisler Making Southwest Gift Trip

One of the "most-hoped-for" birthday gifts that anyone could ever have, goes to Anna Kisler from Mrs Orpha Due of York.

The gift—an all expense paid 16-day trip to Southwest USA, Mexico and to the Hemisfair.

Anna Kisler has operated Kisler Sundries since the death of her husband, Vergil, 10 years ago. She bought the store from Mrs. Due.

It took a number of years to complete the payments. In the meantime, Mrs Due and Anna became good friends. This week she will start her 5000 mile trip by bus and train. Mrs Due will also accompany her. Sept 26-1968

Swim Bus To Make Trips One More Week

Aug 1973

The Summer Recreation ball programs were completed last week with the playing of the Midget All-Star games at Polk Thursday night and the older girls' softball team won their league tournament at Waco Wednesday night. The Progress has no details on this game.

The swimming bus will make its last trip to Stromsburg, Friday, August 24, according to Lowell Bills Community Club president.

Donations during the week were $15 from Mr and Mrs Lavern Schulze to the Summer Recreation Fund and $5 from Mrs Arthur Trennepohl to the swim bus expenses

Lines From a Little House—

Polk's Maybasket Heart

By Blanche Spann Pease

LAST week end Ray and I took a little vacation. We started out on Saturday morning, muttering to ourselves, as we enumerated what we had in the suitcase. Whenever we go anywhere, Ray invariably forgets his razor. This time we had it packed, but I found out later I had forgotten both of my tooth brushes!

We drove to Polk, where we were guests of some friends. Ray stayed in Polk, while I went on to Lincoln, accompanied by Mrs. Lloyd Hahn of Polk and Mrs. Irvin Anderson of Stromsburg. While in Lincoln I was a house guest at the William Bergstresser home. All of us attended a hobby meeting.

The women accompanying me stayed at a hotel and thereby hangs a hilarious tale. I used their room in which to check now and then, to see that I had my town-face on straight. When it came time to go home, Mrs. Hahn asked me for the key to her room. I thought she had it and she thought I had it. A quick search of our bulging purses didn't turn it up.

So what did we do? Well, you can't search through your purse when your arms are loaded with bundles. So we laid down our bundles in the hotel hall, put our purses on the carpeted floor and got down on our knees and searched through our purses. Coming up behind us, Mrs. Anderson declared that we looked exactly as if we were shooting dice!

o o o

SUNDAY night we had dinner at a steakhouse in Lincoln (with our husbands who had come after us) and then drove to Polk, where we stayed over night again.

Polk is a lovely little country town, basking in the sunshine. It is a town of beautiful spreading trees, and typical country churches, lawns all neatly raked and manicured. Its people are friendly and courteous.

As Harold Hibberd of Gibbon described Polk, it is "The town with the Maybasket Heart." For at Maybasket time, shutins and old people all find Maybaskets hanging on their door.

COMMUNITY CHORUS PALM SUNDAY CONCERT PLEASES AUDIENCE OF THREE HUNDRED

The Polk Community Chorus presented the 20th annual Palm Sunday concert in the high school auditorium to an audience of 300.

Officers for the chorus organization this year were: Mrs Leslie Adelson, president; Mrs Willard Adelson, vice pres.; Mrs Robert Merchant, sec.-treas.

Elected to serve next year are Mrs Robert Merchant, pres.; Mrs Dean Myers, vice pres.; Mrs Robert Willits, sec.-treas.

April 3 1969

Mrs. Hahn wrote for several years a column "This Week's Bouquet" in the local paper. She also wrote a column This N'That. She received no pay, but a lot of enjoyment.

Weekly Bouquet

The Polk, Nebraska, *Progress* doesn't wait until an obituary is needed to write nice things about people in its community. Mrs. Lloyd Hahn writes a column called "This Week's Bouquet" in the *Progress*. She says, "I write about folks from all walks of life: the mayor, the business man, the farmer and his wife, the oldest resident in town, the music teacher — but this one written about the janitor has received more mention than any other. Many say this little column has helped bring out the thought 'There's good in everyone.'"

This Week's Bouquet at Polk

The weather has been extremely cold of late. With modern homes, oil furnaces, heaters and electricity, many of us suffer little inconvenience to our personal comfort during icy blasts.

But did you ever give a personal thank you to the man, who on Sunday mornings at 10 below, arises at 5 a.m., sacrifices his rest and warm bed to build a fire at his church so those who come will worship in relaxed ease?

This week the *Progress* would like to recognize a faithful janitor, Karl Detloff. Karl was reluctant to tell me of how cold his fingers have been, and of personal suffering in getting the fires started in the various stoves in the Methodist Church and had never kept track of how long he had served. I'm sure it is 20 to 25 years altogether, much of the time seven days a week (at church or postoffice building.)

Karl, who has been a trustee and worker in the church, hasn't gone home and back to the warm bed he left, but after breakfast has changed his clothes and attended Sunday School and church.

Finding janitors is often a problem, finding good ones like Karl, is many times a bigger one. So we want to give him this recognition. We pin a bouquet of "Thank you's" on Karl Detloff.

THIS 'N THAT FROM HERE 'N THERE

1950

An eleven word sentence asking for a contribution impressed me more than a dozen elaborate charity solicitations such as most of us get in the mail at this season of the year. It was from an Old Peoples' Home and read:

"Add life to their years—not just years to their life!" How true it is!

This story is a little old. It happaned during Davis's One-Cent Rexall sale. Seems a man came in and asked to buy a toothbrush. Mr. Davis informed him that for one cent more you could buy another, adding "One for your wife."

The old man replied, "No thanks. When I buy a new one, I always give her the old one."

He paused while several other other customers in the store gasped, and then added, "She uses it to clean her shoes."

This story comes from Central City and happened to a boy that many of you know. Polk is such a town of Swedes and others, so I relate it here.

"A high school student came home one evening pale and wan, but 'No, he wasn't sick but he didn't want any supper." He sat down by the fire. He went outdoors awhile, returning whiter than a sheet. 'No, he wasn't sick, there's nothing wrong' he told Mom. He left the room again. When he returned, father took matters in hand. 'Listen here, son. You are sick! What is the matter?' Finally under dad's threatening he broke down 'Well, coming home from school one of the boys dared me to take a chew of Snuss'. He took the dare!

To my way of thinking, it would take a cast-iron stomach to enjoy that "nid-bit". But I know some who take a chew before breakfast. Brrr!

—World-Herald Photo.

Award ceremony . . . From left, Sunberg, Beavers, Hagood.

Pride in Serving Shines Through The Dark Years

By Tom Allan

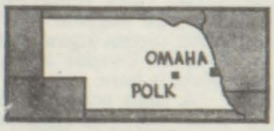
World-Herald Staff Writer

Polk, Neb.—Oscar Sunberg grinned—happily Wednesday morning as his hands clutched a gold-plated hammer.

Then the 75-year-old Swede posed a challenge to a small delegation from Omaha, Lincoln and Columbus that had come to the old-fashioned hardware store on Main Street to pay him homage on the anniversary of his half-century in the hardware business:

"Tell you what. You get blindfolds on and I'll challenge you all now to a nail-driving contest."

There were no takers. They know that Oscar can drive a nail as sharp as the bargains he's driven in his 50 years in the business. They know



he can do it in darkness. Oscar has been totally blind for almost half the years he's been the area's hardware merchant.

The delegation had seen him interupt the informal ceremony to wait on a farmer who needed a bolt.

After a cheery greeting, Oscar's fingers touched the broken bolt in the farmer's hands, and with unerring accuracy, found a replacement in a maze of bins.

Obvious Pride

There was obvious pride in Oscar's face as he accepted the gold hammer award "for outstanding service to the hardware industry" from L. B. Beavers, of Omaha, executive vice president of Wright & Wilhelmy Co., and Bob Hagood, Columbus, company area representative.

But it was obvious there was more pride in the old Swede's heart in service to a customer, even if it was only the purchase of a bolt.

Folks here tell you that's been the secret of Oscar's success despite a handicap that would have halted other men.

"Retire? What do you mean retire? asked Oscar as he hefted the gold hammer. "Now that I've gone 50 I'm going to try for 75."

Oscar is maintaining a tradition here as old as Polk. His Swedish immigrant father Henry and his older brother, Albert, who died in 1966, founded the store in 1907 a year after the town was platted.

"I started in the business in 1920 and was a partner with my brother for 43 years before he retired," Oscar said.

Oscar's partners now are his daughter Janice and her husband, Edward Saylor. Oscar plans to continue his partnership's prerogative of coming down every day to wait on customers as long as he is able.

'Beats Sitting Around'

"It beats sitting around," he said.

"My blindness was caused by a disease I can't pronounce and you can't spell," Oscar said. "It was an optic nerve ailment I had since birth which gradually deteriorated leaving me without sight since 1950. I'd prepared for it by taking Braile but I never use it anymore.

"I know my way around the store and I always like to stock the shelves myself so I know just exactly where things are.

"I don't think of it as a handicap. I just never allowed it to get me down. I just kept on doing the same things I'd always done. I think the worse thing that can happen to a person is to have him sit down and feel sorry for himself."

John Smith is going to watch the boxes he picks up to take along fishing more carefully hereafter. Going on an all day fishing trip, he asked his wife to fix him a box lunch. Come noon, he opened it, but no lunch. In it was the cream and sugar set that his wife had won as a prize in the card game the day before. At about the same time in Polk, Mrs. Smith, who was going to show a neighbor her prize, discovered her husband's lunch.

Legion Auxiliary Sponsors Bingo For Elderly

Feb. 15 1973

In a community service program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, 34 senior citizens enjoyed a get-together with bingo as the main entertainment at the Legion Hall Wednesday afternoon. This activity will be repeated the first Wednesday of the month with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 12.

Murray Nelson received the door-prize. Besides Murray and his wife were five other senior couples; the Dave Ekdahls, Estor Lackeys, Leonard Orendorffs, Harold Lenzs, and the Paul Strands. Others attending were Ella Cramer, Walter Nelson, Mrs A. Swanson, Mrs Grant Willits, Ruth Bills, Clara Anderson, Anna Guthrie, Grayce Burney, Hannah Hahn, Frances Widga, Mary Monson, Violet Sundberg, John Smith, Arnon Dover, Mrs Paul Sagehorn, Mrs Con Lindholm, Ervin Gestrine, Lyle Widga, Myrtle Johnson, Mrs Frank Ostrander, Alvena Lind and Margaret Lott.

News Stories Can Be Found Everywhere

Sept 1954

It isn't everyday that a news story "drops" into a reporter's lap. But that was about what happened when Mrs. Lloyd Hahn of Polk was taking lunch to hay men in the field.

Down came a P-39 Liasian army plane, circling and smoking and landed on the country road, fortunately right side up.

From the oil-spattered plane emerged Lt. Robert Sally of Rolla, Missouri, unhurt and apparently quite calm.

Enroute to Camp Carson, Colorado from Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin, he noted the oil pressure dropping and although traveling 95 miles an hour, he made the emergency landing in a few minutes. The oil cap had come off from vibration.

Lt. Sally radioed Lt. Keith Rynott, also flying in the group, who flew to York for 10 quarts of oil for a refill. After carefully wiping the motor and plane off, refilling with oil, the first Lieutenant got a chuckle from the group of onlookers, mostly farmers, who had gathered, asking them if anyone had some bailing wire. Lawrence Swanson obliged and the cap of the oil tank was securely wired.

Mrs. Hahn offered the pilots homemade cookies and cake. Lt. Sally commented that this was his first emergency landing and e hoped his last.

Fullerton Man Plays Santa Claus

Dec 18 1958

A Fullerton man, Herman Kingler, and a self-styled Santa Claus, has been practicing the character of St. Nick with distribution of apples and potatoes to the needy

'Increased Federal Aid Should Help Elderly'

In Lincoln, help for an elderly person often is just a phone call away.

With that call, he can find out if he qualifies for all or part of a package of services, ranging from a "senior handi-bus service" for trips to the doctor to a home handyman service which provides low-cost home repairs.

By contrast, an elderly person in Polk, Neb. must shift for himself or rely on family, friends or neighbors.

Lincoln and Polk represent the two extremes of government services available to the elderly in Nebraska, said Ronald L. Jensen, executive director of the State Commission on Aging.

Polk, he said, is typical of many communities which traditionally have provided few special services for the elderly.

Lincoln's pioneer comprehensive $350,000 program should serve as a model for the rest of the state, he said.

Jensen said Lincoln's program is part of a quiet revolution in services to the elderly, dubbed by some the "gray revolution." It is fueled

Stories by Eileen Wirth

largely by federal money and manifests itself in such things as senior citizens centers, home health care programs and nutrition programs, he said.

Now, said Jensen, there are only "spotty kinds of local efforts" to meet the needs of the elderly, but with increasing amounts of federal money available many towns soon should be able to provide services similar to Lincoln's.

Two years ago, Nebraska received $128,000 in federal funds for work with the elderly, this year it is getting $463,000 and next year the total "should go over $2 million," he said.

Jensen predicted that in three to five years, Nebraska should receive about $5 million, some of which must be matched with local money.

Already communities are working to expand their services to the elderly, who make up 12.4 per cent of Nebraska's population, he said.

Examples of such efforts include:

—In a number of outstate communities, including Scottsbluff, Grand Island, Hastings, Norfolk and Cozad, hospitals provide home nursing services.

—In the rural area of Saline, Jefferson and Gage Counties, a non-profit cooperative bus line run by and for members is helping fill the gap in public transportation for the elderly who do not drive.

—In Grand Island, the Platte Valley Community Action Program helps the elderly supplement their income with an industrial association which sells novelty and handcraft articles produced by the elderly.

—In Superior, a center provides recreation and social activities. Recently the center received a grant to purchase a mini-bus to help transport the elderly around town.

"The great lacks in most areas are for things that can serve as alternatives to institutionalization," he said.

About 8 per cent of Nebraska's 184,000 persons over 65 are in nursing homes, twice the national average, he said.

"Our proportion is twice as high because we've placed a lot of emphasis on developing facilities and not much on alternative services."

Jensen said Nebraska has more units of public housing for the elderly per capita than any other state, but unless "supportive services," such as home health care and group nutrition programs, are offered, public housing is "just a place to live."

Don Darling, an economist at the Department of Housing and Urban Development area office in Omaha, said about 100 Nebraska communities provide some kind of low-cost public housing for the elderly.

There are about 4,300 apartment units, about 2,000 of which have been built since 1964, Darling said. If funds were available, the state could "easily" fill 10,000 units, he said.

Some persons interviewed said they think solving some of the underlying problems, especially in rural areas, may take more than money provided for specific services.

State Technical Assistance Director Glen Soukup said the problems of Nebraska's rural elderly are tied to the question of rural economic development.

There must be cultural and economic incentives for persons who can provide needed services, such as doctors, to settle in outlying areas, he said.

Jensen said that the greatest needs of Nebraska's elderly include "individual services to enable them to stay in their homes." These include transportation, home chore services, nutrition programs, such as meals on wheels, and group dining facilities.

Polk Is Inconvenient but Desirable

Polk, a small (pop. 413), quiet, attractive town, nestles in gently rolling fields of central Nebraska. Its population is aging. At least one-eighth of its citizens are more than 65, said a resident who knows everyone in town.

To some extent, life for the elderly in Polk is one of small inconveniences which are compensated for by the comfort of being in a familiar place with well-loved friends.

For example, when Mrs. Emma Horstman, 81, suffered a heart attack some months ago it took half an hour to get her to a hospital.

Because of the lack of intercity bus service, Esther Peterson, 81, who does not drive, sometimes has to hire someone to take her to Grand Island (35 miles away) on business.

Shopping is difficult because there are no clothing, department or drug stores in Polk. Some who still drive, as does Mrs. Edward Benson, 88, have mileage restrictions on their licenses which limit them to an 18-or 20-mile radius of home.

Yet none of those interviewed wants to leave Polk.

"I was here the day the lots were sold for this town," said Arnon Dover, 85, a semi-retired bachelor farmer. "I know you'd never find a better class of people than right here. People will help you when you need it. And if they can't help you, they will find someone who can."

Dover is one of several elderly men living in the old brick hotel on the town's main square. His only relatives living nearby are a niece and her family.

He still helps work the land he owns near town but recently has been troubled by asthma.

He said, however, that medical care is no problem. A doctor comes regularly from York and a town emergency unit can provide transportation to the hospital in York.

Some, such as Mrs. Benson and her inseparable friend, Miss Peterson, rely heavily on one or two close friends for companionship. The two, who have no relatives in the area, often eat together and then spend hours watching television.

She and Miss Peterson share many small daily tasks. Miss Peterson, who is steadier on her feet, usually walks downtown to get the mail.

There is no home mail delivery. In icy weather, they stay home and wait for improved conditions even if Social Security checks or other important correspondence are expected.

For Mrs. Horstman, one of the main drawbacks of Polk is the lack of transportation. "I wish there was a bus or something," she said. "I thought I'd get me a bicycle but the doctor vetoed that."

Because of her heart condition, she stays home much of the time and now does much of her shopping by mail ordering goods from a Lincoln department store. Groceries are delivered by the local store.

Mrs. Horstman said she lived in an Osceola rest home for seven months after her heart attack but returned to the comfortable frame house that she and her late husband bought in 1923.

"The rest home was lovely and they were nice to me but your own home is always nicer," she said.

She joined others in calling for a town public housing project for the elderly. Many would find it handy and economical, she said.

World Herald
Oct. 4-1972

Dover . . . Violin fun.

Miss Peterson, left, and Mrs. Benson . . . A chat over coffee.

—World-Herald Photos.

Mrs. Horstman . . At home

Before the cameras . . . From left, former Govs. Peterson, Crosby, Burney, Morrison and Tiemann.

THE Columbus DAILY TELEGRAM
FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1965 COLUMBUS, NEB. PAGE

Ex-Governors Meet

W. Herald Nov. 10-1973
Two Hours on Television

Midlands Politics 'Honest, Decent'

By Steve Jordon

World-Herald Lincoln Bureau, Room 2, Executive Building.

Nebraska's five living ex-governors ranged freely across the land of Midwestern politics Friday during a videotaping of an educational television program.

And one of the vistas they all seemed to enjoy was the honesty of poltics, not only in Nebraska, but also in its neighboring states.

"I think I was fortunate to have served in a state where politics are honest and decent and clean," Frank Morrison said, calling the practices in Spiro Agnew's Maryland "an entirely different idea of political morality than we have."

Press a Safeguard

Val Peterson said he believes an aggressive press is one safeguard against government corruption.

"My only criticism of the press is that it isn't aggressive enough, it doesn't dig enough and it doesn't hammer away," he said.

Asked if most senators and representatives could stand up under the scrutiny now being given vice presidential nominee Gerald Ford, Robert Crosby said he thought nearly all would.

"Our political system is a safeguard," he said. "The party that's out will bend every effort to discover a flaw in the party that's in."

But Norbert Tiemann said in some states both parties accept payoffs as part of political life; where everyone knows it's being done, there's no public outcry if it is "exposed."

On Camera

Tiemann, Peterson, Crosby, Morrison and Dwight Burney spent more than two hours before the ETV cameras Friday evening.

The evening session was an open-ended discussion by the five, similar to one three years ago involving Burney, Morrison, Tiemann and Crosby.

That tape was inadvertently erased, ETV public affairs producer Joel Fowler said. Friday's discussion will be combined with film on each of the ex-governors' current activities into a two-hour program.

The program is one of several government-related pieces which will be shown near the start of the 1974 Legislature, probably the week of Jan 15, Fowler said.

At times the governors reminisced about the trials of office, including nasty letters from citizens, usually anonymous.

Burney says goodbye

LINCOLN (UPI) — For a moment they all felt the loneliness, the strangeness of leaving a life the old warrior had known for nearly a quarter century.

For a moment each felt he was the one who had gone down to defeat and was bidding a last farewell to the political scene.

And each felt that somehow it wouldn't be quite the same without the old warrior there—watching over them.

When he entered the legislative chamber Thursday, the warrior had no idea he was going to do any spell-binding in a place where some of Nebraska's greatest orations have been heard.

Says Goodbye

He pondered what to do before delivering his last address to a Nebraska legislature. He overcame some of the nervousness by shaking hands with many old friends, some probably for the last time.

Then it was standing stiffly erect, as always. It was shifting the weight from one foot to another occasionally.

There was a smile, of course, to his new wife, and to the 49 senators out front. He pondered how fitting it was that this, his final day, should occur on his 73rd birthday.

Then came the time to speak. The old warrior leaned ever so gently on the lectern. In a tone of voice belying his mixed emotions, he thanked the lawmakers for their tribute to them.

Gives Advice

In slow, even words, he gave his parting advice to the assembly, ending with a confident, "I am sure you are equal to the task."

The old warrior thought it was over then---time to leave the chamber he knew so well.

Not so.

A plaque was presented by the legislature for public dedication. The man he defeated once, but not twice, handed him the pen used during the old warrior's brief stint as governor.

And a senator rose to ask from the floor for a copy of the moving farewell address so that he might pass it on to his children and they to their children.

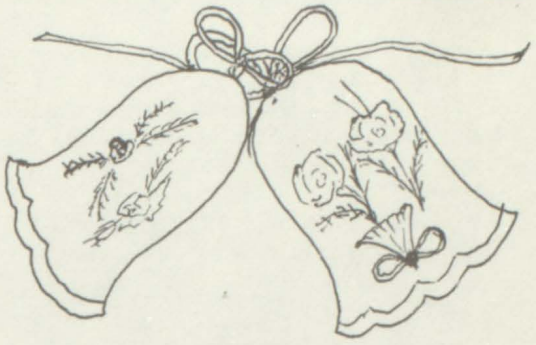
A tear almost broke through the mildly tanned face. But it was held back, and a smile and nod showed approval.

Lt. Gov. Dwight Burney—one of Nebraska's most beloved political figures—had stepped out of political life.

64

Golden Years

fifty or more



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Johnson (65)

Sixty-five years ago Segred Gustafson became the bride of Oscar Johnson. Their wedding date was September 23, 1908. The place Swede Plain Church near Polk.

They lived on a farm in the Polk area, until their retirement to a home in northeast Polk.

Both have lived all their lives in the Polk area.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Morris (61)

It was on December 31, 1912 at York, that Rose Marie Bittinger became the bride of Delbert Charles Morris. They have been married over 61 years.

They reside south of Polk. Mr. Morris has been a farmer, now retired.

They have five children, Donald and Lloyd of Bradshaw, Lee of Benedict, Rosemary of Arroyo Grande, California and Betty of York. There are 13 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

They, like the Johnsons and others have lived all their married life in the Polk Community.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Baack (57)

Another couple who have lived all their married life in the Polk community are Alice Wurtz Baack and Martin Baack, who were married at the Immanuel Lutheran Church southwest of Polk on June 5, 1917.

They too are farmer folk and live on their farm north of Polk. Their children are Robert of Polk, Louise Reetz of Lincoln and Lena Mae Blase of Hordville.

They have 12 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Four of the Will Lindburg family have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. All live in the Polk area, except Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wurtz, who live near Clarks, about a distance of 10 miles.

They are left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Parker Aker, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Lindburg, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Lindburg and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wurtz. Mrs. Aker and Mrs. Wurtz are sisters, their brothers are Willard and Maurice.

The circle of eight was broken in September 1973 when Mr. Aker died. The Lindburgs grew up in this community.

Mr. and Mrs. Estor Lackey (55)

Winifred Bennett and Estor Lackey were married on May 15, 1918 at her parents home at Fremont.

Winifred was a teacher near Arborville, Estor was engaged in farming.

They moved to a home in west Polk for their retirement years.

They have one daughter Thais Belle Bush of La Peer, Michigan and four grandchildren.

Mrs. Lackey was a charter member of and active in the Faithful Workers Club, which has observed it 50th anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Shockey (55)

Vera Bittinger and Al Shockey were united in marriage on June 25, 1919 at York.

They too lived on a farm and still do. Both have spent their entire lives in this area.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Sundberg (55)

It was on August 16, 1919 that Miss Edna Jones became the bride of Raymond Sundberg. Their ceremony took place at Central City, Nebraska.

Both grew up and have lived all their lives in the Polk community. Since retiring from farming, they moved to west Polk.

Three children blessed their home, Delores Johnson of Stromsburg, Harvey of Polk and Ramona Stromberg of Lincoln.

They have 10 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Johnson (54)

Another bride of the year 1919 was Mae Anderson, whose marriage ceremony took place at the Swede Home parsonage north of Polk on September 24, 1919.

They too lived on a farm, but have now retired and live in Polk.

Their children are, Darlene Bush of Omaha and Marilyn Nyberg of Central City. They have four grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Lindburg (54)

Miss Ruth Jones, on December 19, 1919 was married to Willard Lindburg at her parents home in Hordville.

They established their home on a farm and were farmer folk for many years until purchasing a home in Polk for their retirement years.

They are the parents of four children, Adelaide Bousquet of Lincoln, Elaine Stevens (deceased), JoAnn McKillip of Lincoln and son Dean of Hordville.

There are 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. They too have lived all their lives in this community.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Gustafson (54)

A bride in the year of 1920 was Alma Johnson, who on March 16 of that year married Rudolph Gustafson at Central City.

Their home on a farm was blessed with two children, Dr. Doyle of Omaha and Mrs. Irene Weimer of Lincoln. They have 9 grandchildren. They still live on their farm northwest of Polk, but are retired from farming duties.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice G. Lindburg (52)

At the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Hahn, who lived west of Polk, Elva Hahn, on August 17, 1921, married Maurice Lindburg.

Both grew up in this community and lived here all their lives, Mr. Lindburg being a farmer. They farmed north of Polk where son Dale now lives.

They built a new home in Polk some years ago and live there.

They are the parents of four children, Jacqueline Todaro of Allentown, Pa., twin sons James of Polk and Maurice, Jr. of Stromsburg, and Dale of Polk, 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Norris Anderson (53)

Violet Stromberg and Norris Anderson were married on February 22, 1922 at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stromberg. They have lived on their farm 5 miles east of Polk for 52 years.

They are the parents of four sons and one daughter, Richard of Stromsburg, Paul of Polk, Rodney of Pleasanton, California, John of Greencastle, Indiana and Laura Hunt of Guthrie Center, Iowa. They have twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. John is a professor at Purdue University and Richard is Polk County Assessor.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Glasser, Sr. (53)

In Polk's largest new home resides Gladys Kahler Glasser and Roy Glasser, Sr., who were married on December 14, 1921 at the Polk parsonage.

They "set up" housekeeping on a farm south of Polk, and lived there until retirement.

They have two children, Marjorie Van Housen, and Roy Glasser, Jr. of Polk. There are 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Both have always called Polk their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hoffman (51)

Florence Pierson and Martin Hoffman were married January 16, 1923 at the Christian church parsonage in York.

They too lived on a farm until retirement in Polk. They have two sons, Martin, Jr. and Darold, both of Polk. Seven grandchildren call them grandma and grandpa and there is one great grandchild.

Polk has been their home town most of their married life.

Mr. and Mrs. Ilof Ostberg (51)

It was on January 15, 1923 that Josephine Lindahl and Ilof Ostberg were married at North Platte, Nebraska.

Their home was on a farm north of Polk, until they, like the above couples named, purchased a home in Polk and moved into town to retire and take "life easy".

Two sons were born to them, Donald of Polk and Dean (deceased). They have 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

"Ike" and "Jo", as they are commonly called, have lived in this area all of their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kahler (50)

Married on Valentine's Day in 1924 were Marie Nelson of Osceola and Ralph Kahler by Justice of the Peace in Iowa. They have lived in the Polk area most of their married life.

They farmed until they purchased Kahler's Coffee Shop and operated the cafe for 17 years.

Their children are: Rosemay (Mrs. Glen) Ferguson of Clarks, and Ralph Jr. of Fairmont. They have 8 grandchildren. Both have been top ranking officers of the I.O.O.F. Lodge and Rebekah Lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Anderson (50)

Both Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Anderson, who were married February 25, 1924 in New York City were born in Sweden.

Mr. Anderson came to Polk County when he was 27 years of age. He was here 10 years before returning to Sweden and brought Clary Helena Orstedt to America.

Mr. Anderson, who will be 90 years of age January 24, 1975, farmed until retirement about 20 years ago.

Their children are: Rueben, Harold and Leonard of Polk and Erick Lee, of Atoka, Oklahoma. They have 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mrs. Anderson, who has returned once to visit Sweden has about 40 or 50 relatives residing there.

Mr. and Mrs. Urban Spoor (51).

Mr. and Mrs. Urban Spoor, who moved to Polk in 1970 observed their 50th wedding anniversary on July 18, 1973.

Most of the couple's 50 years of married life were spent in Peru, Nebraska where Mr. Spoor was an employee of Peru State College. They moved to Polk to be near their daughter, Mrs. Donavin Widga.

Mr. and Mrs. Orlie Miller (50)

Orlie Miller and Garnet Samuels were united in marriage on March 19, 1924, at York, Nebraska. They are the parents of three children, Dwayne, Don, and Geraldine (Mrs. Noel Kealiher), all of the Polk area. They have ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Orlie and Garnet have lived all their lives in the Polk area. Orlie was born at the Miller homestead just west of Polk where his son Dwayne and family now reside making this the 5th generation of Millers to live there. Orlie was engaged in farming until their retirement to Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Person (55)

Letha Friend and Hugo Person were married on September 6, 1919 at the Methodist Parsonage at Central City. They have lived in this area all of their married life, now residing on their farm 5½ miles southwest of Polk.

They have 4 children: Marjorie Jensen, Shelton; Jean Bjorkman, Marquette Wayne, Hordville; and Kenneth, Cincinnati, Ohio. They have 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. & Mrs. Reuben Hanquist observed their 50th Wedding Anniversary Sept.8th at the Evangelical Free Church. They have one daughter and four sons.

A Polk former farmer's wife says this happened at her 50th wedding anniversary observance.

She was pleasantly surprised to see a former "hired man", whom she hadn't seen for years, attend. She knew him, but he didn't know her. "Have I changed so much," she queried. "It isn't that ma'am, I just never saw you dressed up before."

These couples do not now live at Polk, but are former residents:

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Johnston married 50 years December 31, 1972.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Wilshusen of Crete, who observed 60 years of marriage on April of 1973.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Bush of Columbus, who observed their Golden Day at the Polk Community Hall in 1972.

Many Polk persons attended the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wurtz at a Clarks Church on August 27, 1972.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bedient of York (formerly Myrtle Green) have been married almost 60 years. They lived many years in the Mrs. Mildred Sterner house.

Mr. and Mrs. Barthold Baack of York have also observed over 50 years together.

Hordville Bank President and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Gustafson observed their 50th wedding anniversary in 1972. Reuben formerly lived northwest of Polk.

To My Wife

Written in 1907 by M.F. Smith, Banker of Polk

It was long ago tonight, love, I became your happy swain,
And it thrills me with delight, love,-to recall the time again,

We were young and full of help, love,-As our lives were joined in one,
And we viewed from present scope, love,-We would not it were undone,

How the years have sped away, love, My head's bald, and yours is gray,
But I fondly write to say, love,-That I bless our marriage day,

The bright twinkle in your eye, love,-Has been my light through darkest hour and its thrill has made me try, love,-To gain for you some worthy dower.

Reason rules with stern demand, love,-Impulse surges to and fro,
So I long to hold your hand love, As I used to long ago.

Happy scenes have filled our lives, love,-Trying times we, too have known.
But the bees within our hives, love,-Have gathered sweets now all our own,
Our ideals must lead us on love, Though the grades we climb are steep.
Mortal mantles we must don, love,-To enfold us while we sleep.

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Be Your Best at Home

... in dress, manners and spirit. Life is too short to waste its holy hours in criticism, fault finding and unkind words and acts. Only a few brief years do family circles remain unbroken, and if our retrospect of the time spent together is to be a precious and comforting memory, let its hours be filled with all that is loving, generous and Christlike.

We have careful thoughts for the stranger,
And smiles for the sometimes quest.
But oft for our own the bitter tone,
Though we love our own the best.

If you feel hard-pressed, remember: a diamond is a piece of coal that was hard-pressed for a long time.

Life is not for play; for it has its solemn responsibilities, its sacred duties, and eternity lies beyond this little span.

Family Album

The Adelsons

Mr. & Mrs. A.P. Adolfson

Many Swedes used the patronymic system until 1901. The child was known as the son or daughter of the father. The son of a father with the first name of Adolph would have the last name of Adolphsson, and a daughter would have the last name of Adolphsdotter. Some daughters later changed their names to the easier son form. Many, but not all, Swedish surnames end in son.

Consequently, many Swedes had no loyalty to a permanent surname. Therefore, many Swedes changed their surname at will after their arrival in America. The Adelsons were no exception and have used the following surnames: Adolphson, Anderson, Adolfson, and Adelson.

Anders Peter Adolphsson was born in 1838, in Sweden. His parents were Adolph and Maja Lena (Larson) Johansson. On May 28, 1864, Mr. Adolphsson married Mrs. Johanna (Johnson) Peterson. She was born in Sweden.

In 1871, the family immigrated to America and in 1873 in Marshall County, Illinois, Mr. Adolphsson applied for American citizenship using the name Andrew Peter Anderson. On his final citizenship papers, December 12, 1877, he used the name Andrew Peter Adolfson.

Coming to Polk County in May of 1873 and taking adjacent homesteads in the same section three miles north of Polk in the Swede Plain Community were A.P. Adolfson, his wife and three children; his mother and stepfather Maja and Anders Andersson; two of his brothers, J.V. Adolfson and A.W. Runquist, and his brother-in-law, J.A. Johnson (Jonsson).

On May 17, 1873, he filed a homestead claim using the name A.P. Anderson.

Crops were planted and harvested. A sod house was erected to shelter the family and livestock. By having the family and livestock in the same dwelling, they were able to survive the Easter storm of 1873.

On May 27, 1878, he listed the following improvements on his homestead; frame house, 12 by 24 feet, with two rooms, two doors and three windows. Sod barn 16 by 24 feet, frame grainery 8 by 16 feet and a frame corn crib 8 by 24 feet.

On March 24, 1881, he filed a Timber Culture Claim. To secure final title to the land, he was required to plant and care for ten acres of trees for eight years. On his final affidavit he stated that he planted 2,700 trees on each acre and that there were at least 1,700 living trees on each acre in 1889.

Mr. Adolfson's mother, Mrs. Maja Lena Adolphsson Andersson lived on an adjacent farm. She was born in Sweden in 1813 and died in 1894. She joined the Swede Home Lutheran Church in 1877 and is buried in the Swede Home Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolfson joined the Swede Plain Methodist Church in 1879. Mrs. Adolfson died in 1904, and Mr. Adolfson died in 1922. They are buried in the Swede Plain Cemetery. They were the parents of seven children, two of whom died in infancy. Their five surviving children later changed their last name to Adelson.

Sophia Hattie was born in Sweden in 1865. In 1886, she married Peter Erick, the son of Erick and Betsy (Wautholm) Shostrom. He was born in 1862, in Gestrickland, Sweden. They lived on a farm three miles north and three and one half miles east of Polk, a farm acquired by his father in 1882. They were the parents of six children, Dana, Henry, Willie, Robert, Mable, and Amelia (Mrs. Curtis Flodman). Mr. Shostrom died in 1938, as did Mrs. Shostrom. They are buried in Swede Plain Cemetery. Their son, Willie, is the third generation owner of the family farm.

John Alben was born in 1868. On March 2, 1896, he married Emma Amelia, the daughter of Peter and Johanna (Riddle) Fridberg. She was born at Chariton, Iowa in 1887. They lived on a farm 5 miles north and 3/4 miles west of Polk. They were the parents of six children, Lillie (Mrs. Arthur Scholz), Arthur, Goldie, Florence, Hazel (Mrs. Arthur Wurtz) and Leslie. Mrs. Adelson died December 6, 1936, and Mr. Adelson on May 6, 1961. They were members of the Swede Plain Methodist Church and are buried in the Swede Plain Cemetery. Their son, Leslie, is the third generation to own the family farm.

Mr. & Mrs. Alex Adelson

Alex Lepold was born in 1872 in Illinois. On March 21, 1899, he married Otelia Karolina, the daughter of August and Mathilda (Hakansson) Hult. She was born in 1874, at Swede Home. They lived on a farm 5 miles north and 3/4 miles east of Polk, a farm acquired by his father in 1897. They were the parents of six children, Alvin, Golden, Marvin, and Mildred died in infancy. Besides raising their own two sons Oliver and Lloyd, they helped their son Oliver make a home for his two sons Marland and LaVaughn. Mrs. Adelson died in 1958, and Mr. Adelson died in 1967. They were members of the Swede Home Lutheran Church and are buried in the Swede Home Cemetery. Upon the death of their father, Oliver, Marland and LaVaughn became the fourth generation to own the family farm.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Adelson

Frank August was born on the family homestead on February 22, 1875. On February 11, 1902, he married Nellie Otelia, the daughter of Andrew and Matilda (Lind) Stark. She was born on November 22, 1875 at Genesco, Illinois. They lived on his father's homestead 3½ miles north of Polk. They were the parents of three children, Willard, Orlie and Gladys (Mrs. Roy Nelson). In 1932 the Adelsons retired from the farm and moved to Polk. Mrs. Adelson died Aptil 3, 1955 and Mr. Adelson, March 25, 1959. They were members of the Swede Plain Methodist Church are are buried in the Swede Plain Cemetery. Their son, Willard, is the third generation to own the original homestead which has been in the family for over 100 years. Orlie is deceased.

Esther Amanda Cecelia, born in 1898, married Albert, the son of August and Mathilda (Hakansson) Hult in 1899. He was born June 24, 1873, at Swede Home. They were the parents of one daughter, Levina (Mrs. Lavelle Lamore). In 1914 they moved to Stromsburg. After leaving the farm the Hults transferred their membership from the Swede Home Lutheran Church to the Lutheran Church in Stromsburg. Mr. Hult died January 20, 1954 and Mrs. Hult on June 2, 1968. They are buried in the Stromsburg Cemetery. Lloyd Adelson acquired this farm from his father.

The Adelsons. Left to right, John, Sophia (Mrs. Peter Shostrom), Alex, Celia (Mrs. Albert Hult), and Frank.

The Adelsons: left to right, back row: Frank, John and Alex. Left to right, front row: Celia (Mrs. Albert Hult) and Sophia (Mrs. Peter Shostrom).

Mr. & Mrs. Parker Aker

One of the first couples to be married in the present Polk Baptist Church were Ruth Lindburg and Parker Aker, on November 24, 1915.

They moved to Harvard where they were active in the Methodist Church. Mr. Aker was county commissioner, on the school board, and other
and other community affairs.

Active in Masonic Lodge and Star, they moved to Polk in 1943. As when at Harvard, Mr. Aker was a farmer. When they came to Polk, they moved on the Lindburg home place which they bought.

After retirement from the farm, they moved to Polk. Mr. Aker died in September of 1973. He had been past president of Polk County Farmers Union, served on the Polk Coop Elevator board, and was active in Baptist Church affairs.

Olof F. Alfred

O.F. Alfred was born in 1875 in Sweden. He died in 1958 at age 82.

Mr. Alfred came to the U.S. in 1883 and with parents located in Swede Home area of Polk County. Later they lived in Platte County where Mr. Alfred was engaged in farming and carpentry. Later he operated a grocery store north of Genoa.

In 1903 he married Sigord Lindeberg. They had 9 children, all Polk High School graduates: Orrin of San Francisco, California; Norris, editor of Polk Progress, Polk; Ted of Cleveland, Ohio; Naomi Dragstedt of Parkridge, Illinois; Lorna Dunlap of New Orleans: Vivian McClure of Houston, Texas; Phyllis Lytle of Washington, D.C.; Myra Mae Ziezenmeyer of Sutter, California; Betty Chalmers, (deceased).

The family came to Polk in 1913 where Mr. Alfred operated a merchandise store. He was active in community affairs, secretary of the school board, deacon of the Baptist Church, Sunday School teacher for 55 years. He was an excellent soloist and sang for years in the church choir.

He wrote poems, many times after the death of a dear friend. We print two of them.

A Tribute From O.F. Alfred to Zenas F. Myers

A devoted husband, father, friend has answered final call,
No more his cheerful face we'll see, or hear those footsteps fall,
It's sad to part with one held dear whose love was ever true;
Who met life's trials with fortitude and served well all he knew.
His many friends will miss him, and at home a vacant chair,
Will seem so very lonely without him resting there.
Four square in business dealing, full measure and prompt pay,
Heartaches with kindness healing his motto for each day.
In public life or private he stood for what was fair,
Was often disappointed, but not given to despair.
The undaunted spirits now gone home we lay beneath the sod,
The form it tabernacled while soul was serving God.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin L. Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin L. Anderson have lived in Pleasant Home Precinct all of their lives. Irvin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Anderson and Mrs. Anderson is the former Mildred Stevens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Stevens. They were married at the Little Brown Church in the Vale at Nashua, Iowa, on June 6, 1928.

Irvin is a farmer and served for 20 years as director of School District 51. Mildred attended school at Nebraska Wesleyan and Kearney State Teacher's College and taught school for 9 years — five years in Polk and four years in nearby districts.

Mrs. Anderson taught Sunday School in the Polk Methodist Church for 52 years, was a 4-H Club Leader for 23 years and Children's Youth Leader for 18 years. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the United Methodist Women and a former Secretary of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Mrs. Anderson is the oldest member (in tenure of membership years) of the Polk United Methodist Church. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are on the Methodist Church Board.

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Anderson

Alfred Anderson was born in Sweden on November 20, 1859. He came to America in the spring of 1880 at the age of 21 years. He lived with an older brother at Tabor, Iowa until 1887, when he came to Polk County in a covered wagon with his parents who had come from Sweden to be with their children.

In 1888 he was united in marriage to Anna Peterson at Omaha and brought his bride to Polk and settled on a farm 1 mile west and 3½ north of Polk. To this union were born seven children, namely Elmer, Edick, Walter, Lillian, Edith, Elsie and Florence.

He was brought up in the Lutheran Faith, but later was baptized and united with the First Baptist Church at Polk where he remained a member until his death.

He had resided in Polk County 53 years. Mrs. Anderson passed away in 1927, and Mr. Anderson passed away in 1940. They are buried at LaClede Cemetery north of Polk. All the children have also passed away. Elsie, Florence and Elmer are buried in the family lot at LaClede Cemetery. Lillian Anderson Brown was a long-time employee of the Bank of Polk. She is buried at Washington, D.C.

E. Andrew Anderson

Edward Andrew Anderson was born in 1857 in Gangnef, Danlarne, Sweden. He came to America with his parents, brother and sisters in 1865 when 9 years of age.

They settled at Galesburg, Illinois where his father died. Later Mrs. Anderson and the family moved to Nebraska, settling at Clarks where they had relatives. When very young Edward Andrew purchased land in Polk County on open prairie. He built a two room sod house where he lived with his mother and brother for several years and suffered the hardships of all pioneers, breaking sod and planting crops, to have them taken by drouth and grasshoppers, who came in hordes.

Edward Andrew Anderson wed Marie Charlotte Groman in March of 1886. Marie Charlotte was born in Kogersburg Socken, Darbarna Sweden in 1869.

They were the parents of 12 children. William, Alvin, Ernest, Frank, Andrew, Bryan, Mae, Carl, Daisy, Marion, Anna and Ruby.

They continued to live in the soddy until the year 1894 when they built a new frame house and other buildings and lived on the farm until Mrs. Anderson died in February 1936. Mr. Anderson died March 1937.

Only 4 of the children survive. William of Omaha, Mrs. Richard (Mae) Johnson and Mrs. Clarence (Anna) Guthrie of Polk and Mrs. Lloyd (Ruby) Krader of Fortuna, California.

The farm is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sealey Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Anderson were early residents of Pleasant Home Precinct, living there for 45 years. Mr. Anderson was born in Sweden in 1855 and came to Nebraska in 1844 working as a farm laborer on various farms in this Precinct.

On January 6, 1890, he was married to Emma Josephine Peterson, daughter of Jonas and Christina Peterson. She was born in Galva, Illinois, in 1871 and came with her parents to a farm east of Polk in 1885.

Mr. Anderson was a large stock feeder and often told of hauling hay on a low flat sled to feed his cattle. Before marriage Mrs. Anderson worked each fall in a sorghum mill which was located in the southeastern part of the precinct. Most of the young people would help during the sorghum making season. The work was culminated with a taffy-pull (using sorghum) which was a special social event.

Mr. Anderson helped organize the Citizens State Bank at Polk and was president for many years. He was school board director of District 12 (Hardy School) for 12 years, and was active in Farm Bureau and Farmers' Union. He was also a director of the First National Bank at Stromsburg for many years.

Mr. Anderson died in 1945 and Mrs. Anderson in 1948.

They had seven children, three of whom now reside in Pleasant Home Precinct. Norris, Forrest and Irvin Anderson. The two daughters, Mrs. Nina Knerr and Mrs. Mildred Hultgren reside at Stromsburg and another daughter, Mrs. Lillian James lives at Boulder, Colorado. A son, Reuben, is deceased.

Most marital problems start when the man of the house gets so busy bringing home the bacon that he forgets his sugar.

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest D. Anderson

For forty years, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest D. Anderson have lived on a farm northeast of Polk. Mrs. Anderson was the former Mildred Dick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Dick of Fairbury, Nebraska. She taught school before her marriage and was a Sunday School teacher, Cradle Roll Supt. and executive W.S.C.S. member in the Polk Methodist Church. Forrest, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Anderson, farms and was a school board member in District 12. They are members of the Methodist Church at Polk.

Their three children are Dr. Dale Anderson and Cheryl (Mrs. Tom Kess) of Lincoln, Nebr., and Marlene (Mrs. Wallace Larson) of Stromsburg. They have four grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bedient, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bedient came to the Arborville community in the early 1990's from Sublette, Illinois about the same time as did his brothers Lewis, Charles, Frank and Ed. Fred Bedient had 3 sons and 1 daughter - Harold, Herbert, William and Eva. Harold married Myrtle Green of Polk and lived in the same community until retiring to York. They have 7 children Carl and Marlin of New York City, Rose (Anderson) of York, Kenneth, Fred W., Owen, and Dorothy Stevens. The latter three all live in the Polk area.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Benjamin - Ruth Bragg

Mrs. Meade Bragg lives in one of Polk's early homes purchased and remodeled by her grandmother, Mrs. Albert Benjamin. This home has an interesting history. It once served as a schoolhouse at the Polk cemetery corner, and the first services of Polk Methodist Church were held in it.

Mrs. Bragg is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fitch (Mabel Benjamin.

Albert and Alice Benjamin came to Polk area in 1872 and settled on a farm 3 miles northwest of Polk. Benjamin schoolhouse was District 45, now moved away. The Benjamins lived in a dug-out and later a sod house. Those first years were "hard years" for the pioneers and Mrs. Benjamin later told her grandchild that many a night she cried because she was so hungry. Most of the time, their only subsistence was cornmeal mush.

In 1883 they built the first frame house of the area. Mr. Benjamin died when only 54 years old and his wife stayed on the farm with the help of her brother Arthur. A number of relatives, including the John Clark family lived in the area. They had six sons.

Son Fitch went to Nance County to farm for a time, and while there met Mabel Spiker of Blair, who was visiting in the community. They were married on March 23, 1904. Ruth was their only child.

The family moved to Belgrade and later to Primrose. When Ruth was in the fifth grade she came to live for a year with her grandma, due to her mother's illness. While here she grew to like Polk. Later this dear grandmother had the misfortune to lose her eyesight.

After the death of her father, who was a salesman for many years for farm products, and Ruth had married Meade Bragg, she and her husband returned to Polk to live with her mother. That was in 1963. They've been here since.

Mrs. Bragg has one son, Bennie of St. Louis, Mo. and two stepchildren, Ronald and Madge Hill.

Mr. & Mrs. S.P. Benson

Ed and Albert Benson and Mrs. (Minnie) Joe Johnson were brothers and sister. Albert was the father of Gilbert Benson, Mrs. Joe Johnson the mother of Mrs. Rudolph Gustafson and Milfred Johnson.

S.P. Benson who was born in Sweden came here and homesteaded in Hamilton County near Polk.

His first homestead was where the LeVar Sandell family now lives.

Mr. Benson married Mrs. Anderson, who had 3 children by a previous marriage; Ed, Albert, and Minnie Benson, who took the name.

An unusual arrangement was worked out. Mr. Benson homesteaded and lived on a 120 acre plot of land. His wife lived across the road and homesteaded 80 acres of land, residing in a sod house.

Later the house where LeVar and wife live was built at a cost of $700. Lumber was hauled by wagon and horses from York.

Mr. and Mrs. Benson were the parents of Hilma (Mrs. Henry Sandell) mother of Wallace, Elwood and LeVar, also Esther Larson (Mrs. George) and Josie.

A third generation family is living on the Sandell farm, LeVar.

Mr. and Mrs. William Blender, Sr.

A couple of the Arborville community, south of Polk, Lydia Smith and William Blender were married on November 4, 1909, at Loup City.

They have lived in this community all of their married life. The bride came from the Loup City area.

He farmed, and she still likes to can some of her garden products. Mr. Blender died in the Spring of 1974, at the age of 90.

They have a son, William, Jr. and a grandson, William Blender the 3rd. All of their children live within a half hour drive of their rural home: Mrs. Frances Doremus, Stromsburg, Everett Blender of Benedict, William Jr. of Polk, Virginia Werth of Bradshaw. There are 8 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Binford

Long time residents of the Polk Community were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Binford. Mrs. Binford, the former Bertha Peterson came with her parents, Alfred and Matilda Peterson from Iowa in 1886 when only two years old. Her parents settled on a farm near Polk, living first in a sod house. Later a frame house was built which was her home until her death.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Binford were active in the Free Methodist Church and both were Sunday School teachers for many years. Mr. Binford was a member of the school board of District 26.

Their children are Helen (Mrs. Harold Burge) of O'Neill, Nebraska; Lela (Mrs. Paul Ruch) of Haxtun, Colorado; and Doris (Mrs. Donald Ostberg) of near Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Branting

Two sets of twins were born to Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Branting: Marvin, who resides in Polk and Mervin of York, also Bobby and Betty, who were christened Gerald, Hastings, and Geraldine Hancock of Omaha.

Clifford Branting, who observed his 83rd birthday July 24, was born near Polk and lived in this area most of his life. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Nels Peter Branting. Other children were Ralph, a mechanic at Polk many years, who now lives in Oregon, Arthur of North Platte, Florence Scott of Denver, Colorado, and Clarence and Mabel, deceased.

Clifford married Iva Beck of Clarks on November 30, 1911. Besides the twins, other children born to them were Frances (Mrs. Claude Stromberg), and Laurel, Clarks, Annabelle, (Mrs. Reuben Swanson) of Polk and Willard and Maurice, deceased. Iva Branting died at age 57 in 1951.

Five years later Clifford married Ruth Green whose husband Clyde, had passed away some years before. They now make their home at Parkview Manor at Central City.

An excellent mechanic, Cliff spent over 50 years fixing cars and engines of all kinds. The family, except for a year at Genoa and a few years on farm homes near Polk, resided in their home in Northeast Polk, now owned by the Swansons. Cliff enjoyed in early years following the threshing runs, as the engineer of the steam engine.

In former years Cliff and Iva took part in Lodge affairs - Rebekah and I.O.O.F. Mrs. Branting was a member of the Methodist Ladies Group. A hobby of Cliffs was fishing and he raised and sold fish worms at one time. Flowers and crocheting were Iva Branting hobbies. Ruth Branting loves to knit and make afghans.

Cliff has 42 grandchildren, 72 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Burgess

Clayton Burgess came to the Arborville Community from Harrison County, Iowa in 1873. He homesteaded 80 acres and later acquired another 160 acres on which he built a sod house. In 1885 he built a wood frame house across the road from the sod house. In 1877 he married Harriett M. Milsap a native of Iowa. To this union 11 children were born - William, Effie, Omar, Charles, Ethel, Roy, George, Edna, Hattie, Anna and Frances. In 1915 Clayton and family moved to Polk, Nebraska where they lived one year and then moved to Julesburg, Colorado.

Charles married Edith McMurrin of Hordville, Nebraska and resided on the Burgess farm southwest of Polk. To this union two daughters Harriett and Marcella were born. Charles lived on the same farm until his death in 1965. His daughter Mrs. Fred W. Bedient still lives in the Arborville community. His other daughter, Mrs. Dale Perkins, lives in Central City.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Bedient, Jr. had 3 children. Alfretta lives in Lincoln, Nebraska and works at Lincoln General Hospital, Warren passed away in 1970 after having a kidney transplant and Bruce and his family live in the same community.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Burney

Lt. Gov. Dwight Burney and Mrs. Lloyd Hahn were married New Year's Day, 1965, at Polk Methodist Church.

They reside most of the time at Polk, but also have a home at Hartington. They have traveled extensively since marriage.

Mr. Burney served 20 years in Nebraska Legislature, 12 as State Senator, 8 as lieutenant governor. He was Governor of Nebraska in 1960-1961. He is a graduate of Hartington High School. In 1974 he established the Dwight Burney Scholarship at his Alma Mater. He attended the University of South Dakota and was Superintendent of Schools at Turtin, South Dakota. He married Edna Wales, a school teacher and they resided at Hartington until her death in 1962. Four sons were born to them. Mr. Burney was chairman of Cedar County Rationing Board and served many years as a school board director.

Mrs. Burney attended the University of Nebraska and Nebraska Wesleyan and married Lloyd Hahn in 1928 at "the Little Brown Church in the Vale" at Nashua, Iowa. He died in 1963. They had 2 daughters.

Mrs. Burney has been active in church and civic activities and has sponsored many senior citizen bus tours throughout Nebraska, South Dakota and Missouri. She is a present member of Methodist Church board, has served six years as Sunday School Superintendent, and as a teacher.

She has served in various county, district and state

offices (told about elsewhere) and was a 4H Club leader 20 years.

Her daughters are Marilyn Pierpont, who lives at Healdsburg, California, and Natalie at Rome, Italy.

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Carlson

Anna J. Nyberg, daughter of Swan and Bengette Nyberg was born in 1887 in Hamilton County and passed away in 1939. She was married to Andy L. Carlson on June 1, 1909. Two sons were born to this union, Clifford (deceased) and Harold who resides on the home farm near Polk. He was active in school and civic affairs and received Nebraska's AkSarBen Award for his work at the Polk Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Carlstrom

The sons of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Carlstrom have all been good athletes, with Roger, a P.H.S. senior winning a 3rd in Pole Vault at the State track meet and a first at an Aurora Basketball event this past year.

Carl Carlstrom grew up near Wahoo. He married Frances Carlson 29 years ago at a ceremony at Swede Home Lutheran Church. They lived near Swede Home a few years, later farmed near Polk and for the last 11 years have lived in Polk. They owned and operated a Recreation Parlor here for several years.

Mrs. Carlstrom is superintendent for the Polk County Noxious Weed District at Osceola. Mrs. Carlstrom is working part-time as secretary in the office. She has, for several years, been a cook at Polk School. Her hobby is embroidering and she belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary.

Carol (Mrs. Jerry Wall) of Omaha and Becky, who works at the Welfare Office in Osceola are their two daughters. Sons are Dennis at home, employed by Overland Sand and Gravel, Kenny at Polk Oil Co., Steve at Palmer (works at John Deere at St. Paul), Roger, Tom, a sophomore and Billie a freshman. They attend Trinity Lutheran Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Carlson

Harold Carlson, president of Polk School board has had a busy eight months since the elementary school burned to the ground.

Harold, son of Andy Carlson has lived in Polk area over 40 years and his children are of the 3rd generation to live on the farm east of Polk.

His first wife Esther Ehn died. Their children are Robert of Smith Center, Kansas, Barbara Miller of Lawrence, Kansas, and Marie Brown of Ansley. There are 5 grandchildren.

Harold married Marie L. Heureux in 1954. Her husband had been killed in 1952 in a car accident. Marie is the mother of three children, all teachers: Alfred at Tobias, Rodney at Beemer, and Darla at Hebron.

Harold and Marie are the parents of a son Clyde, who farms with his father, and Genelle, a high school senior.

Besides the school board activities, Harold is a trustee of the Evangelical Free Church, president of Polk Cemetery, Assistant Secretary of church, and Secretary of I.O.O.F. Lodge.

Marie teaches a Sunday School class at the church, has been president of WMS of the Evangelical Free Church and a past vice-president of Polk County Republican Ladies Club.

More quarrels are smothered by just shutting your mouth, and holding it shut; than by all the wisdom in the world.

Mr. & Mrs. S. Alfred Carlson

S. Alfred Carlson was born in Smaland, Sweden in 1868. He came to this country when he was a young man. After a few years in Iowa, he came to Polk County, Nebraska in 1892. He went back to Sweden for his bride, Selma Mathilda Johnson. They were married April 15, 1902 and lived the rest of their lives north east of Polk where he was engaged in farming. They were active members in the early days of the Swede Plain Methodist Church.

Seven children were born to this couple. Edward (deceased); Mrs. Claus (Alfreda) Oberg, deceased; Fredolph (deceased); Mrs. Theodore (Alice) Janky of Stromsburg; Mrs. Harry (Nannie) Nelson; Robert (deceased); and Gordon A. who now resides on the home place. They had eight grandchildren (one deceased) and seven great grandchildren. Mrs. Carlson died in 1931 and Mr. Carlson in 1957.

Mr. and Mrs. Acquilla Cohagen

Mr. and Mrs. Acquilla Cohagen came to Polk County in 1872. They lived on a farm southwest of Polk. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1917.

Their children were John, who later with his wife Laura Judd lived on the farm; Lydia Rose and Bessie. John Cohagens also observed their 50th wedding anniversary.

John's living children are Frank of Polk; Rev. Acquilla, California; Floyd, Lincoln; Lillie Hoover of Sterling, Colorado. The John Cohagens were active members of the Free Methodist Church.

Lydia Rose married John Lampshire. Their children were Lyman (father of Mrs. Earl Lampshire of Polk and Don of Hordville; Gilbert of Polk; and Dorothy Pederson of Lamont, Colorado).

Bessie married Clyde Ruch. They had 3 sons, Paul, Phillip and Harold, all of Haxtun, Colorado. Paul married Lela Binford of Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Coover

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Coover were Polk locality residents for many years and celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at Polk. Edgar Coon Coover was born March 1, 1896 and passed away on March 2, 1972. He came to Polk working as a hired laborer and later owning his own farm north of Polk. His wife, the former Jennie Teressa Stromberg was born April 4, 1886. They had two children, Mary Genelle Stevens and Paul Coover. They had six grandchildren and and six great grandchildren.

Mr. & Mrs. A.K. Crow

Arnold K. Crow, known as "Pat," was the druggist for 29 years in Polk. He was a native of Paine, Mo.

Pat and his wife, the former Ethel Brobst of Benedict, came to Polk in 1912. They moved into a new little red house located 1 block east of main street, with the electric lights. (Marland Adelson now owns this property.) The Crows had 4 children: Smith K.; Sidney E. and Byron E. (twins); and Rosemary. It is believed that Sidney and Byron were Polk's first twins, born on October 10, 1914. The Crow family brought much happiness to Polk and vicinity. They loved to fish and hunt, even Governor Victor Anderson used to come and hunt with them. Pat never turned anyone away that needed medicine, and he always found work for the young men that came from other states seeking work. In 1941, the Crows moved to Long Beach, California.

Pat's grandchildren grew up in Polk: Janice, who died of polio in 1952, Calvin, and Vernon of York (children of Sidney), and Mrs. Sidney Crow, nee Van Housen.

Rosemary, a registered nurse formerly of Long Beach, California, now lives in Benedict, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Dahlin

Alvin Dahlin, the third son of Oscar and Alma Peterson Dahlin was born on a farm southwest of Swede Home. His mother passed away when he was four years old. His father reared the children to adulthood. When Alvin was 9 years old, the family moved to a farm near Polk, later moving two and one-half miles northeast of Polk.

In 1925, Alvin was married to Esther Lind. To this union two sons, Donald and Doyle, and two daughters, Marjory (Mrs. Robert Stevens) and Marion (Mrs. Johnson) of Osceola, were born. Esther died in 1934. Alvin with the help of a younger brother, Martin, reared his family.

Alvin was a road overseer for 12 years. In 1940 Alvin was County Commissioner for four years. He has been an active member of the Viking I.O.O.F. Lodge of Polk for over 50 years.

Alvin is a member of the Swede Plain Methodist Church serving as a member of the Board of Trustees for the church. He served several years on the Board for Swede Plain Cemetery.

In 1963 he married Dorothy Lewis Johnson. They still reside on the farm northeast of Polk.

Mr.and Mrs. Abram Dornburgh

Abram Dornburgh and his wife, Maria, came to Polk County from New York in 1880. They bought 80 acres of land southeast of Polk, living in a dug out the first few years. There three children were born, Arthur, David and Irvin. They continued to live on the farm till his retirement in Polk.

David Dornburgh married the former Mabel Ballard, an early day schoolteacher and lived on the Dornburgh farm.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Dornburgh were active in school and community affairs. Mrs. Dornburgh was a Sunday School teacher in the Polk Methodist Church for many years. Their children are Lyle of Polk and Vivian (Mrs. Roy Wilson of Stromsburg). They have 6 grandchildren.

Three generations of Dornburghs have lived on this farm, Lyle farming after his father's death.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Dahlin

Oscar Dahlin, born in Sweden in 1879, came to America about the year of 1892.

In the year 1894, on February 28th, he was united in marriage to Alma Peterson. Mrs. Dahlin was born in Sweden and came to America with her father.

To this union were born five sons: Rolland (deceased), Harry of Polk; Alvin and Hilding of Stromsburg; and Martin (deceased).

Oscar started farming on a farm near Swede Home. All the children were born on this farm. The mother passed away in 1900 when Martin was born. With the help of friends and relatives, Oscar kept his family together.

In 1906 the family moved to a farm south of Polk. While living here Oscar married Clemy Kingston. To this union was born one daughter, Hazel, now of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

In 1917, the family moved to a farm east of Polk. This continued to be the family home. A grandson, Donald Dahlin lives on this same farm. Thus three generations have lived on the farm.

Oscar passed away in 1947. There are ten grandchildren, twenty seven great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius "Neal" Doremus

Three generations have lived on the Doremus farm. Cornelius "Neal" Doremus was the fourth son of early pioneers Christopher and Margaret Jane Doremus, who came here in November, 1871, homesteading on the farm now farmed by their grandson, James, east of Polk.

The family lived their first six years here in a sod house.

Neal grew up here, in fact lived here all his life. When a young lad of two years he had the misfortune to be in the hay field when his father was cutting alfalfa and one of his legs was cut off. When inheritance settlement was made, the father gave Neal more land because of this unfortunate experience.

Neal however got along very well, doing his farming until retirement. He married Louise Blender in 1907.

Six children were born, one daughter, Mrs. Mae Dose of Polk, and sons Francis, James, Victor, Ralph and Arthur. Victor and Ralph served in World War II. Victor and Ralph are deceased.

Neal had a brother Chas, who also lived in the Polk area. The parents through thrift and good management accumulated 680 acres of Polk County land.

The daughter, Mae who married Gaehart Dose, lives in Polk, has two children, Shirley Negron of South Field, Michigan, and Gaylord Dose. They have six grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. John L. Dorsey

John L. Dorsey, a union soldier, came with his wife from Ohio to the Arborville locality in 1872. Their children were Ernest, Maude (Mrs. James Myers), Lois (Mrs. John Myers), Harry, Myrtle (Mrs. Charles Crain), Grace (Mrs. Bert Palmer), Archie, Elizabeth (Mrs. Harry Labort) and Knight.

Mr. Dorsey was nicknamed "Doc" from his role of helping the sick in the neighborhood, either human or animal. He also hauled his huge black kettle around the neighborhood making soap for everyone. He sold his farm in 1918 and lived with his son, Knight until his death in 1935.

His son Ernest, was an early mail carrier, and daughter, Maude taught school in Hamilton County. Archie Dorsey taught school in Hawaii for 25 years and met a tragic death in the days of Pearl Harbor.

The Dorsey's were grandparents of Mrs. Harold (Marie) Nelson of California.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ehn

Mr. and Mrs. John Ehn were married in Vestmanland, Sweden, and to this union seven children were born there. In 1886 they decided to go to America. It took them 3 weeks to cross the Atlantic Ocean by steam wood boat. There was a big storm on the ocean during their crossing. They landed in New York and went by train to Stromsburg in a rainstorm.

Pete Larson, a family they knew from Sweden came and met them with horses and wagon and they all stood up in the wagon during the 2½ mile ride to his farm.

In the morning he put the men to work in a small coal mine he had by the Blue to earn their breakfast.

Then Mr. Ehn went out to find a place for his family to live while he worked.

They lived in a sod house 4 miles northwest of Swede Home. Here they lived one summer and worked for Olof Shostrom that summer. Wages were 50¢ a day.

In the fall they rented a farm 2½ miles west of Swede Home. From there they moved to the John Wilson farm near Polk where they lived for 17 years.

When they retired in 1912, they built a house in Polk and lived there.

Their nine children were: Hannah Olson, Emil, Henning, Chas, Gust, Joe, Esther Olson and Josie Samuelson.

The family has resided in the Polk community 77 years. Joe lives in the family home in east Polk. He is 83 years of age and the only living descendent.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Flodman

Ernest, son of Charles and Hilma Flodman was born in 1879 and passed away in 1958. He was married to Julia Johnson on February 13, 1901, who also was a child of a pioneer family. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson, farmed two miles west of Polk.

Mr. Flodman was interested in the development of his community and served on the school board and Farmers Union boards many years. Both he and his wife were lifetime members of the Swede Plain Church where he served as Trustee and Deacon.

They celebrated their Golden Anniversary February 13, 1951, at the Swede Plain Church.

They spent their entire life on the same farm three miles north of Polk before retiring in 1935.

In 1945 Mr. Flodman with the help of William Garling built a new home in Polk which is now owned and occupied by his grandson Marland Adelson.

They had eight children, namely Curtis born in 1902, who married Amelia Shostrom in 1928. She died in 1954. Two sons were born to them, Wayland C. and Burdette.

In 1955 after having farmed his entire life near Polk Curtis moved to Stromsburg and purchased the house his grandmother Mrs. Charles Flodman formerly owned. He was united in marriage to Mildred Henkle May 14, 1956.

Curtis has been connected with the Scandinavian Insurance Company for 15 years as a board member, secretary and agent. He was a life time member of the Swede Plain Church.

The second child Ina, Mrs. Joe Kralik, born in 1903 lives in Omaha and has five children, Eldon, Myron, Jerry, Evangeline, (Mrs. Hal Johnson) and Gwendolyn (Mrs. Al Menard).

The third child Verna born in 1906 married to C. Marvin Fredrickson in 1930. Thev have one daughter Jane (Mrs. Arlette Johnson).

The fourth child Alvena was born in 1907. She was married to Robert Stohl. They had four children: Marland, LaVaughn, Marcia (Mrs. Waldo Rost) and Genon (Mrs. Doyle Klingsborn). Alvena passed away February 8, 1959. She was a member of the Polk Trinity Lutheran Church.

The fifth child Hazel was born in 1910. She was married in 1934 to Lawrence Lind. They have four sons: Larry, Mardell, Kent, and Danny, also one daughter, Mary. They are members of the Stromsburg Methodist Church.

The sixth child Carrol was born in 1913. He was married in 1934 to Virginia Moore. They have six children, Deland, Lauritta (Mrs. Ford Shenk), Donna (Mrs. Edward Hafer), Merton, Patty (Mrs. Hanson), and Robin. Carroll has lived on his father's farm for the past 60 years. They are members of the Polk United Methodist

Church.

The seventh child Vergil born in 1916 was married to Delores Lampshire in 1943. They have two sons Vergil Jr. and Rodney. They are members of the United Methodist Church of Central City.

The eighth child Algene was born in 1922. She was married to Walter Stohl May 2, 1941 and to this union were born four children: two sons, Gary and Vance and two daughters Cheryl (Mrs. Peter Samusevich) and Leilani (Mrs. Joe Clarke). They are members of the Swede Plain United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Flodman celebrated her 92nd birthday November 25, 1973 and is at home in the Good Samaritan Village in Osceola.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ulric Flodman

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ulric Flodman were among early pioneers of home seekers who came to make permanent homes in Polk County before Polk was established.

Carl Flodman, who was born in 1820 in Sweden, married Fredricka Sofia Anderson of Sweden.

They left Sweden with family in 1868 and made their home in Illinois for four years, before coming to Polk County in 1872 and settled on a homestead 2 3/4 miles north of Polk.

Upper Row: Axel, Ernest, Herbert, Selma. Lower Row: Hartwig, Chas Flodman, Rose, Mrs. Flodman, Olive.

The eldest son was Charles born in Sweden in 1844. He married Hilma Josephine Widga of Sweden. Eleven children were born to Charles and Hilma: Axel, Ernest, Herbert, Hartwig, Selma Norton, Olive Benett, Rose Swanson, Viola Arnold and three children who passed away in infancy. Pearl Fusby made her home with her grandparents after the death of her mother, Ellen, Mrs. Axel Flodman.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Flodman lived on a farmstead three miles north of Polk. They experienced the hardships of early pioneer life including encounters with Indians and the grasshopper plague of 1880. Nearly all of the early settlers in the Western part of Polk County were Swedes, whose first homes were made of Sod.

When the church was organized in Swede Plain, the Flodmans united with the church. This was in 1879. They were faithful and held many responsible positions in the church.

Mr. Flodman was interested and active in commercial and community enterprises and was for many years president of the Scandinavian Mutual Insurance Company, whose constitution first specified the members must be of Swedish descent.

Swede Plain Church stands on the land once owned by Mrs. Flodman's parents. The land near the church is farmed and owned by two Flodman brothers of the fifth generations, Wayland and Burdette.

The second child, Alida Sofia, born in Sweden in 1847 married Gust Warner of Lincoln. They have four sons Paul, Andrew, David, Albert, and 3 daughters.

The third child, Minnie, born in 1849 in Sweden, married Peter Anderson. They had three children Charley, who farmed near Swede Home, Amelia, Mrs. Joe Nelson of Stromsburg, and Robert of North Platte.

The fourth child, Hilda, was born in 1851 in Sweden. She spent most of her younger days caring for her aged parents on the farm homestead. She had one daughter, Flora who was married to Ed Ostberg. Their son Ilof lives at Polk. Lyle and Alfreda are other children of Ed Ostberg.

The fifth child, Emily (Mrs. Andrew Peterson) of Omaha was born in 1854 in Sweden. They had one son, Dr. Byron Peterson, and two daughters.

The sixth child, Hugo born in Sweden, in 1857 married Louise Anderson, and lived on a farm near Polk. Their children are Myrtle, (Mrs. Rupert Hall) of Lake City, Minnesota, Edith and Philip and Melvin, deceased.

The seventh child Julius also born in Sweden in 1859 was the youngest and the only one to receive a formal education. He was Professor of Luther College in Wahoo for many years. He married Augusta Stenholm in 1904. They had three children.

Mr. and Mrs. Ulric Flodman joined the Swede Home Lutheran Church in 1877 with the following children: Hilda, Hugo, Julius and Mrs. Minnie Anderson.

Mr. & Mrs. Hartwig Flodman

Hartwig Emanuel Flodman was born in 1884 and died in 1965 at the age of 81 years.

He was married February 28, 1912 to Lillie M. Forslund of Stromsburg. She died March 7, 1973.

They have one son Earl born January 14, 1917. He was married December 29, 1944 to Lorraine Lampshire born October 15, 1922. They have three children, Steven, David, and Elizabeth

Hartwig and Lillie farmed and were on the Flodman farm until retirement. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1962.

Don Ostberg, grandson of Flora Ostberg is now farming this land. He is of the 5th generation of Flodman relatives to own this land north east of Polk.

*** It is not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is : What are we busy about?

*** A woman should try to make her husband feel he is boss of the home, even if he's really only chairman of the fund raising committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fossberg

Frank Fossberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rydson, and wife Hilda Miller, daughter of Henry Miller, were married in 1898. Although his legal name was Rydson, his foster parnets were Mr. and Mrs. Chas Fossberg.

They lived their lives in the Polk community, farming near Polk until reitrement in 1941 and purchased the home now owned by Mrs. R. Widga in Polk. He died in 1955 and she in 1953.

Both were faithful members of the Baptist Church. They observed their 50th wedding anniversary in 1948 with 180 relatives and friends calling at the open house at the church.

They had 9 children, 5 deceased, Gilbert, age 2 of pneumonia, Mary at age 8 of diptheria, and Elvirah in infancy. Kermit died at age 13 and Irvin at age 71 in 1972.

Their daughter Sylvia (Mrs. Wallace) Sandell and son Gordon live at Polk; Goldie Adams at Hastings and Maxine Broderson at Lincoln.

A son-in-law, Don Upton, wrote these poems at the death of his wife's parents:

Softly tolls the bells of heaven, Calling mother to her rest, Now she takes her place with angels, In that land among the blest.

Gentle hands that soothed our sickness, Here on earth no more will know, They are soothing us from glory, As from day to day we go.

When God called then, Mom was waiting, And she softly slipped away, Though we mourn dear Mother's going, we will meet again some day.

Sweetly rest your journeys ended, here on earth will ask no more, Then we'll meet you in the morning, Over there on Jordan's shore.

* *

There's rejoicing in those mansions Far beyond the starry blue, For another soul has journeyed where the saints go marching through.

Father longed to make this journey, For he knew the joys he'd find, Once again to talk with mother, Down the paths of endless time.

Pain is gone - there is no suffering, Now he lies in restful sleep, He has answered heaven's summons, For him life's journey is complete.

We shall miss his voice at even, As we say our daily prayers, But the teachings he has left us, Will help to lighten all our cares.

May the grief we know be lessened, By our knowledge of his faith, May it help to guide our footsteps, Till once more we see his face.

There we'll meet those precious loved ones, Who have left this vale of tears, God will keep them as He promised Through the endless space of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Fredrickson

Marvin Fredrickson, Mayor of Polk 20 years, was a farm implement dealer 37 years. He and his wife Verna live in one of Polk's largest homes, a three story structure with basement, across west from the city park.

Both have been active in Methodist Church and community affairs.

Verna has served as president of Polk Woman's Club and of the W.S.C.S. of Methodist Church and has also held office in Eastern Star Lodge and been a teacher and Sunday School Superintendent of the church.

Marvin, an avid golfer and in 1961 champion of Tehama Golf Classic at Hastings, is retired. He has served the Methodist Church as chairman, lay leader and Sunday School Superintendent.

They have one daughter, Jane (Mrs. Arlette Johnson) of Hampton, who teaches in the Aurora High School.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank M. Garretson

Frank M. Garretson married Jane Dorsey on August 29, 1875.

They moved from York County to Polk in 1910 where they built their home where Oscar Andersons now reside.

They later moved to Polk. Frank died in 1937 and Jane in 1942.

Frank moved with his parents from Ohio to Indiana in a covered wagon in 1861.

He recalled planting corn by hand and sowing wheat by hand broadcast as well as harvesting wheat with a cradle.

Children, Leroy, Ella, Perry, Jessie, Charles and Clinton are all deceased.

The Roy Garretson Family

Roy Garretson was born in Marshfield, Indiana in 1872 and came with his parents to Nebraska in 1883 settling on a farm near Arborville.

His wife, the former Mary Jones born in 1872 in Iowa came to Nebraska by covered wagon in 1873. The Jones family lived in a sod house near Arborville for many years.

They were married February 15, 1901 and lived on a farm northeast of Polk. Their four children were Elsie, Wesley, Alvy and Floyd. Mr. Garretson died in 1931 and Mrs. Garretson in 1957.

Elsie Giles who sent us this information lives in Colorado (a daughter).

Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Glad

Both Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Glad were born in Sweden and came to America in 1888 locating on a farm near Polk. They later moved to York and Hamilton Counties returning to live in Polk in 1922. Their children were Lewis and Edwin and Mrs. Wilmer Rodine (deceased), Edith (Mrs. Fred Stellars) and Lillie (Mrs. F.O. Johnson) of Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Glad were active members of the Evangelical Free Church in Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Glasser

In 1894 Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Glasser came to Pleasant Home Precinct settling on a farm southeast of Polk. To this union 2 daughters and 3 sons were born. Myra and Ruth and Roy, Ralph and Ira. They were faithful members of the Polk Baptist Church and active in church and community affairs. Roy and Ira live at Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. James Green

James Green was born in England in the year of 1839 and came to the United States at the age of 12 years, later moving west where he settled at La Motte, Iowa and spent his early days. He had 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

At the beginning of the Civil War, he joined Company "I" Iowa Volunteer Infantry and was wounded in the upper arm by a bullet at the battle of Vicksburg. He was honorable discharged and returned to his home at La Motte, Iowa and was married to Sarah Sealey. She had seven brothers and sisters, namely, John, George, James, Alice (Sealey) Isley, Rachel (Sealey) Honess, Harriet (Sealey) Honess, Julia (Sealey) Stevens. They lived in Iowa seven years.

Then they homesteaded near Polk, but later went to Kansas before returning to Nebraska, and buying a farm 2 3/4 miles northeast of the present town of Polk.

The Polk cemetery (original Cooper Church & cemetery) were part of the north "forty" of the farm of James and Sarah Green.

James and Sarah were the parents of nine children, Ella (Green) Frost (Winfield) 4 children; James S.C. Green, wife Elsie Compton 5 children; William E. Green wife Lena Talbot of Polk, 4 children (Keith of Central City and Mrs. Harold Bedient of York); Lee E. Green and wife Alice Walker of Osceola, 7 children; Anna M. (Green) Hill, husband Clarence (Cad) G. Hill, Somers Iowa, 6 children (Mrs. Ruth Hurd Stromsburg); Mable (Green) Giauque, husband Ernest, York, 9 children; Glen Green, wife Bessie Downey residing in an Osceola Rest Home; Walter Green, wife Mamie Downey of York, 2 sons; Clyde Green, wife Ruth Tinker, Polk, 5 children Mrs. Clifford Brantingwho is at a Rest Home in Central City).

Walter Green's first wife Mamie was deceased and he was married to Abbie from Atlanta Georgia. His sons are Everett of Lincoln and Harold of Polk.

Mr. Green was a carpenter and walked to and from Polk every day, carrying his tools. He helped erect some of the first buildings of Polk.

James Green was a very patriotic person and never failed to walk to the near-by cemetery on Memorial Day to decorate the graves of the veterans of wars and the graves of his descendents. The last trip was made by "wheel-chair" due to failing health. The Fourth of July was always a highlight in his life and a family reunion and picnic was observed as long as he lived. His grandchildren were always ready to hear his experiences during the Civil War, over and over again. He had one great grandson, Allen Bruce Hill that was killed by a booby-trap in Vietnam. He was buried at Torrance, California on his 21st birthday. He was the son of Robert and Marion Hill of Torrance, California.

Mr. Green died June 4, 1915 at his farm near Polk and his wife Sarah died September 19, 1917 at their home. They are buried at the Polk Cemetery.

Clifford G. Hill, of North Platte, a grandson of James Green remembers an incident where he and his grandfather were on an errand to buy seed corn at the Stunkel farm on the east edge of Polk. They noticed several rows of corn were freshly cut in the middle of a cornfield, west of the Stunkel farm. Clifford asked his grandfather why they had cut the corn and his grandfather remarked, "this space where the rows of corn are cut will be the main street of the newly laid out town of Polk."

At one time the Polk baseball team in the Polk County League, included six members of the Green family, Will, Glen, Walter, Clyde, Keith and Claude.

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Green

William Green and Lena Edith Talbot were married in Stromsburg, Nebraska, January 22, 1896. Both came with their parents by covered wagon, in the 1880's. Their first home was near Polk, not too far from both parental homes. Mr. Green was first employed by M. F. Smith, who was a cattle feeder in the community.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Green: Myrtle A. (Mrs. Harold Bedient, York); Keith, Central City, Perry, Fort Morgan, Colorado: and Margaret Cooper, Lansing, Michigan.

In later years, Mr. Green raised fine horses and engaged in farming and buying and selling livestock also. Their home was established one and one quarter miles east of Polk, and when the town was being built, much labor and horse power were furnished by Mr. Green. Lumber and building materials were hauled in at that time.

The children attended District #72 school, and their church was the Methodist Episcopal.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Gustafson

Alfred Gustafson, born in Sweden in 1857, lived to be 94 years of age, dying in 1951.

He received early military training in Sweden. At age 23 he immigrated to Illinois, living with an aunt and uncle. Later he came to Chapman, Nebraska.

Here he married Ida Johnson who also came from Sweden in 1886. In 1890 they built a home on the farm they bought north west of Polk. They moved to Polk in 1922. His wife

died in 1945, at age 85.

He lived from 1945 to 1951 most of the time with his son Oscar and wife on the family farm home.

He was a faithful member of the Hordville Baptist Church. Their children are Mrs. Ruth Jones and Mrs. Grace Leach (deceased), Mrs. Violet (Sterling) Nelson of York, Oscar (deceased), Rudolph of Polk and Reuben who is president of Hordville Bank.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson are buried at Lindale Cemetery southwest of Polk.

A grandson Richard lives on the family farm.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gustafson

Frank August Gustafson, who was born in Sweden in 1857 came to America in 1880 at the age of 23 years. He stopped at Peoria, Illinois where he worked for a few years.

On July 3, 1882 he was married at Peoria, Illinois to Anna Nilson born in Sweden. She had come to America in June of 1882. They had been sweethearts in Sweden. In 1885 they moved to Polk County, Nebraska and settled on a farm near Swede Home where they resided for several years before moving closer to Polk. Eight children were born to this union, namely Arthur, Robert, Sigrid (Mrs. Oscar Johnson), Gertie (Mrs. Ernest Johnson), Judith (deceased), Rodith (Mrs. Clarence Peterson), Nannie (Mrs. Arthur Adelson of Osceola), and Olga (Mrs. Ray Guilford of Central City).

They attended the Lutheran Church at Swede Home. Mrs. Gustafson died in 1928. Mr. Gustafson died in 1936. They are both buried at the Swede Plain Cemetery.

Harlan Johnson of Polk and Melba Ann O'Shea of Central City are grandchildren of the Frank Gustafsons.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar L. Gustafson

Oscar, eldest son of Alfred and a Gustafson, lived all his life on the family farm northwest of Polk, 64 years.

He attended rural school and later was moderator of this same school.

In 1917 he enlisted in the U.S. army in World War I and served in the signal corps on Purdue University Campus at Lafayette, Indiana. Later, his son Richard, in World War II, served in U.S. and foreighn service.

Oscar and Beulah Stevens were married in 1922. His wife, before marriage, taught school in Duel County. Beulah, like their 2 sons, Roger and Richard, graduated from Polk High School.

Oscar was a charter member of Polk American Legion and was a steward of the Methodist Church. His son Roger is now a steward. He was a Republican chairman in Bluff Precinct in Hamilton County.

Mrs. Gustafson maintains homes in Polk and Hastings.

A great man is the man who does not lose his own child's heart.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Hahn

In 1873 Freeman Hahn came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ezeriah Hahn to a farm northeast of Polk. In 1887 he married Laura A. Ripple. He was an early auctioneer and served as Polk County Sheriff and also County Commissioner. When Polk started they moved into town and he served on the town board. They were active workers in the early Methodist Church. They had one foster son, Harry.

Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Hahn

Born in Germany, Ernest Hahn came with his parents to America when he was 10 years of age. When he was 3 they moved to South America, living there seven years. The family settled in Iowa.

When he was 24 they moved to Hamilton County. On September 8, 1892, he married Mary Smith and they spent almost 60 years together before his 1952 death.

Mr. Hahn served 25 years as a director of the Hordville Bank, 22 years as vice president. He was one of the founders of the Farmers Elevator at Hordville where his grandson, Dwayne Hahn, is present manager. He was a Hamilton County Commissioner 8 years and a member of District 65 school board 20 years.

His grandson James Lindburg and family reside on the Hahn farm.

His Polk descendents are Mrs. Elva (Maurice) Lindburg and grandsons James and Dale Lindburg, also Dwayne, Doyle and Dolan Hahn (sons of the late Harvey Hahn), Natalie Hahn, daughter of the late Lloyd Hahn.

Other living children besides Mrs. Lindburg are: Mrs. Lloyd Nordstedt of Lincoln; Mrs. Marie Zieglebien of Elgin, Illinois; Albert of Pasadena, California; Irvin of Cambridge, Iowa; and Mrs. Beatrice Kauth of California.

Mr. Hahn was 84 years of age when he died, his wife died in 1954 at the age of 80.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hanquist

Mrs. Wesley Lindahl of Omaha, who kindly furnished us data, said her grandmother first married Anders Stark, later Andrew Hanquist.

Mr. Hanquist, born in Sweden in 1851, lived to be 91 years of age. He came to America at age 13, living in Illinois and Iowa before coming in 1878 to Stark (near Polk). He married Mrs. Stark in 1879.

Two sons and a daughter were born to them, William Hanquist (father of Harold and Lloyd), Charles (father of Harlan) and Sadie Johnson whose son is Wallace Johnson of Lincoln.

Matilda Stark, by her first marriage had four children: Anna Stark Johnson, whose children are Noma

Wright of Osceola, Nettie Lindahl of Omaha, Alice Kennier of Oklahoma, Gilbert Johnson of Spalding, Nellie Britton of Washington, Esther Britton and Leonard Johnson of California; Nellie (Mrs. Frank) Adelson whose children are Willard of Polk, Gladys Nelson of Clarks and Orlie, deceased; Hilda (Mrs. William) Wurtz, whose children are Herbert of Clarks, Dr. Arthur of California and Clifford, deceased; Ida (Mrs. Melvin) Hill, whose children are Neva Bright and Vera Brownfield of Colorado and Tressa (Mrs. Arthur) Peterson, deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hanquist

Don and Maxine have lived most of their lives in the Polk community. Don was born on a farm near Polk and has lived within a mile of Polk all his life.

They are the parents of four children, Bonnie (Mrs. John Recknor) of St. Paul, Don and wife Ann of Stromsburg, Rodney and Lori. There are two granddaughters.

Don has farmed and been associated with the post office in Polk since 1956. He was appointed Postmaster in 1971.

The Hanquists are members of the First Baptist Church in Polk. At the present time, Don serves as chairman of the Board of Deacons. Maxine works with the GMS (a girl's club of the church) and is Sunday School teacher of the 7th and 8th graders.

In community affairs, at the present time Don belongs to the Volunteer Fire Department and Maxine serves as secretary of the Polk County Republican Women.

They are members of the Farm Bureau. Maxine served years as County Chairman of the Women's work.

Don served many years on the local school and oil boards, also on the County Credit Union and extension boards.

Mr. and Mrs. P.A. Hanquist

Married in Sweden, Mr. and Mrs. P.A. Hanquist came to America in 1888 where they immigrated to the newly established community of Stark (located between Polk and Hordville). Here at Stark his cousin Andrew J. Hanquist operated a store and was the Stark postmaster.

It has been said the name Stark was given to this settlement after the Stark family living there. Mrs. Andrew Hanquist was the former Matilda Stark.

They lived on a farm near Stark for many years and were active members of the Hordville Baptist Church. Their children were Carl, Elmer, Reuben, Ebba and Mrs. Robert Lindburg. They had 12 grandchildren. Reuben lives in Polk and is custodian at the Polk School.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hanquist

Ellen Nyberg and William Hanquist were married April 8, 1902 and lived on a farm in Hamilton County, northwest of Polk for many years. Their 3 children were Harold, Wilbert and Lloyd. The latter was an auctioneer for many years. The William Hanquists made their home in Polk in later years. Harold resides northwest of Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Harless

The Leland Harless family trace their ancestry to grandfather Jacob Harless who married a Miss Studebaker and they lived in Lincoln before coming to Polk. Their children were Sylvester, John, George, Isaac, Charles and Rachel. Charles married Nellie Putman.

Sylvester, the father of Leland, married Grace Knerr. He farmed, later was a seed corn dealer at Polk for many years. He and his wife planted the peonies at the Polk cemetery, Mr. Harless being a director and officer for many years. Mrs. Harless is one of the oldest members of the Methodist Church at Polk. He was the first rural mail carrier from Stromsburg to serve the Polk area.

Another son, Stanley, and family live at Stromsburg and Mrs. Vera Shay at York.

Mr. and Mrs. G.M. Hill
Pioneers of Polk County, Nebraska

Mr. G. Melvin "Mel" Hill and Miss Ida Mae Stark of Polk County, Nebraska were married on March 15, 1899 and embarked on their homemaking and farming career on Mr. Hill's farm one mile west of Polk. They had three daughters: Neva, Tressa and Vera.

Their farm was not large, and Mel like many other farmers of the area, carried on his farming single handed using horses to supply the power for operating of the farm machinery. It was diversified farming with crops of corn, wheat, oats, prairie hay and alfalfa. An orchard supplied apples, plums and peaches; and always there was a big vegetable garden, and such small fruits as strawberries, currants, gooseberries and melons. As a bonus there were asparagus plants and mushrooms around the farm.

Cows, pigs, chickens and sometimes turkeys were raised for food and cash crops. Mel and Ida butchered and cured their own meat both beef and pork. The butchering was done with the cooperation of two neighbors - Will Miller and brother Wayne Hill - who shared the meat. There was no electricity on the farms of those early days of the 19 hundreds so ice was used for refrigeration. The three neighbors constructed an ice-house over a cave in the grove of trees that was located just north of Mel and Ida's farm yard, and they filled it with big blocks of ice during the winter using straw or saw-dust for insulation. This met the needs of the families for cooling their ice-boxes during the summer.

The Stromsburg spur of the Union Pacific Railroad was built to connect Central City to Lincoln, and it went through our farm dividing two fields, the north grove and the pasture. Now the cows must be brought from the larger north pasture across the track to the barnyard for milking. However, sometimes we elected to go into the north pasture to do the milking there and carry the milk back. We would bring the milk to the back porch where we put it through a separator. Rich country cream had many uses, one of which was for being churned into butter. This with home-made bread, vegetables from the garden, fruit from the orchard, milk, eggs and chicken all from the farm made for excellent

country fare.

Many trees of the grove had been cut down to make way for the railroad track and a miniature logging operation was set up to saw them into lumber. The workman lived in tents while doing the cutting. Later Dad built a new barn and a cowshed using that lumber along with other bought from a dealer.

Many good times were interspersed with the farm work - neighborhood gatherings and large family dinners. Dad's hobby was fishing and hunting small game, so there were fishing and camping trips. Chautauqua brought good entertainment for a week each summer for several summers. This was especially enjoyed by mothers and daughters.

Mother's avocation was needlework: knitting, crocheting, quilt-making and dress-making. This was indeed very useful and stood the daughters in good stead.

Men of the entire neighborhood cooperated at harvest time. When the big threshing machine was brought into the field it was a time of much activity, bringing 12-15 or more men in for the work, and some women to help with the huge cooking operation. Lunches were carried to the men in the field both forenoon and afternoon and a big dinner was served at noon each day.

Arborville was a small village about five miles from the farm where some supplies could be purchased, but for many needs we would have to drive by horse and wagon or buggy about 24 miles to Central City or Clarks.

When the family visited friends or relatives the trips were made in a two-seated surrey which had fringe around the top, and side curtains to be buttoned around when weather posed a need. Later Ford came out with an automobile and we sold our surrey and took up riding in a Model T. We graduated much later to a Model A. In this we took several out-of-state trips, namely into South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas and Colorado. On a trip to South Dakota we crossed the Missouri River at Yankton on a ferry boat, the Josie L. K., but when we returned to recross we had to drive over a rather unstable pontoon bridge.

In 1919 we sold this much loved home place and moved to Polk. Dad had always been interested in government and he became active in local civic affairs. At the time of World War I he was an active member of the Home Guard, and he registered for the draft in the last call before that war ended. He was a long time member of the IOOF Lodge in which he held many offices. Mother became associated with the Polk Woman's Club, and worked in the Women's Society of the Baptist Church. We girls held membership in the Sunday School, choir and World Wide Guild of the Baptist Church. We played in a local orchestra. After being graduated from Polk High School we attended college.

Neva took up teaching, first in country school, next in Polk School, then in Haxtun, Colorado. Here she met and married George F. Bright from Lincoln, Nebraska. They moved to Sterling, Colorado where Mr. Bright had a position in the Junior High School. He later became principal of that school. He died in 1932 leaving Neva to raise their three sons. This she did with the wonderful help of her parents and family, and George's mother. The three sons are now grown and married, and Neva as a retired Sterling teacher lives in Sterling.

Tressa became the wife of Dr. Arthur E. Peterson of Polk. They located in Ovid, Colorado where Dr. Peterson established a good practice. After a few years they bought a practice in Greeley, Colorado. Two sons and two daughters were born to them. Tressa passed away in Greeley in May of 1963. Dr. Peterson is now practicing in Black Hawk and Central City, Colorado.

Vera married Gerald (Jerry) F. Brownfield of Lincoln, Nebraska. They lived in that city until 1959. While there Jerry was manager of the sales department of Gooch's Milling Co. They sold the Lincoln home and moved to Estes Park, Colorado where they own and operate a leather shop.

Mrs. Hill's death occurred in 1955, and Mr. Hill died in 1960.

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Hill

C. Wayne Hill was 98 years of age when he died. He was Polk's oldest citizen. Born in York County in a sod house in 1872, went with his parents to Oregon when he was four, returning by covered wagon. The trip back to Nebraska took 104 days.

His brother Melvin and he moved on a farm near Polk in 1896. They built a new home here. He married Sadie Johnson on February 7, 1907. They resided on a farm, later operating a cream and produce station at Polk. Mrs. Hill died in 1955. Mr. Hill died in 1970.

Pa Hill was affectionately known by Polk townspeople. He had a keen sense of humor, and was friendly to all. His son, C. Glenn, lives at Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Glenn Hill

Both Hazel Stevens Hill and husband Glenn are graduates of Polk High School, as are their daughters, Sheralee, wife of Dr. Iglehart of Stanford, California and Sondra, wife of Dr. Herbert Feidler of Norfolk.

Mr. Hill is a contractor of state road work. In 1974 he was given a citation for Highest Percentage of Completion Excellency of Work for Contractors of one to five hundred thousand value, by Governor Exon. He served on the town board, also was vice-president of the Commercial Club.

Mrs. Hill is an elementary teacher in the Polk School. She was nominated by the Polk School for 1973 Teacher of the Year award. Mrs. Hill received the teacher's Freedom Foundation Award from Valley Forge, Pa. She received her B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hill serve on the board of the Methodist Church. Mrs. Hill has been president of the Women's Society of Christian Service. She was also Sunday School superintendent, and a teacher for many years. She led a Children's group for 14 years.

Every tomorrow has two handles; we can take hold by the handle of anxiety or by the handle of love.

Mr. and Mrs. James Honess

Mr. and Mrs. James Honess homesteaded on Section 24 Township 13, Range 4 in Pleasant Home Precinct in 1872. He was born in Kent County, England, in 1831. Mrs. Honess was the former Harriet Maria Sealey, born in New Jersey. Their first home was a crude soddy. In 1874 he broke up some prairie land and raised 80 bushels of wheat, but grasshoppers destroyed the rest of his crops.

Mr. Honess was a Civil War Veteran enlisting in the Iowa Volunteer Infantry and marched with General Sherman's army in Georgia. At Chapion Hill he had his gun all shattered by a musket ball and received a promotion for his meritorious conduct at that place.

He was instrumental in bringing relatives to Polk County as he wrote them of the good soil and opportunities in this Precinct. Soon his two brothers-in-law, Jamier Edmund Stevens and James T. Sealey came.

Mr. and Mrs. Honess were active in the early Methodist Church, where both were Sunday School teachers. He was a director of the School District 26.

They had 5 children, Hannah May (Mrs. John Brown), Mary Luella, Frank, Ettie J. and Robert William, all of whom are deceased. The Honess family later moved to Idaho where the children married and lived.

Descendants of the Honess who live in Polk area are the Stevens, Sealey and Green families.

Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Horn

Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Horn homesteaded the land where later the Dick McConnell's lived, northeast of Polk. Mr. Horn was a teacher in the East before coming to the Polk area. He told his granddaughter, Leona McConnall McGrew, about the Indians roaming about the country when the Horns lived in their sod house on this homestead. These Indians wanted to trade their ponies for food. If the settlers would trade with them, the Indians returned at night and stole their ponies back. Mr. Horn was an early County Commissioner of Polk County.

They had two daughters, Ida (Mrs. Dick McConnell) and Ethel (Mrs. Ike Conger), both deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Jerner

Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Jerner were the first residents to move to the new town of Polk in 1907, living here until their deaths. Mrs. Jerner was the former Anna Lofgren and both were born in Sweden. They were active members of the Polk Baptist Church. Mr. Jerner was an early blacksmith in Polk. In later years his son-in-law Wilbur Whitacre was associated with him. They had one son, Orion, who was a postmaster in Lincoln, Nebraska for many years, and a daughter, Olga (Mrs. Wilbur Whitacre). Both Olga and Orion are deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson

Andrew Johnson was born in Tjareby, Holland, Sweden in 1842. He left Sweden in 1868 for America and settled in Eddyville, Iowa, where he had employment with the railroad.

When he had accumulated enough money, he paid for the transportation of his sweetheart Hannah Pehrson of Sweden to come to Iowa. She was accompanied by her brother, Mr. Miller.

In Sweden Hannah had learned to knit and the intricate art of weaving at a very early age, in order to help her mother make a living due to the loss of her father.

Her mother taught her to read the Bible which she did fluently. She attended school very little due to her advanced reading. She continued this enthusiastic self education all her life. Her devout Christian character and high ambitions were of great influence later upon her children. She was married to Andrew Johnson in 1869 in Eddyville Iowa. After four years here, they moved in 1873 to Nebraska and settled on a homestead two miles west of Polk. Here they built a sod house. Their first child, Nellie (Mrs. Charles Rydson) was born in Iowa. Six children were born in the sod house. Three passed away in infancy.

Fredrick, born in 1879 was married to Emma Jane Brodock in 1902. They made their home three and three fourth miles north and two miles west of Polk. To this union were born four sons and one daughter

Edward, born in 1884, was united in marriage to Hannah Elizabeth Runquist in 1905. They have three daughters, Violet (Mrs. Harry Jones), Fern (Mrs. Gerald Reichwein) and Rose (Mrs. Elsworth Howe).

In 1873 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson built a new home across the road which is now occupied by the Dean Samuelsons family. They lived here 35 years. After retiring, their son Ed purchased the farm and made his home there. They were among the early settlers when Polk was being built. Mr. Johnson passed away in 1910. Mrs. Johnson was united in marriage to Mr. Andrew Erickson in 1913. They were members of the Baptist Church.

Charles Oscar Johnson

Charles Oscar Johnson was born in 1866 in Sweden. He came to America in 1882, and settled in Polk County on a farm 3 miles north of Polk which he bought from Richard Dale.

He was united in marriage on October 8, 1890 to Ida Charlotte Johnson who also was born in Sweden. To this union 3 sons and 7 daughters were born, Edna, Rosa, Edith, Alice, Mabel (Mrs. Henry Shostrom), Nina (Mrs. Forrest Sedan of Boise Idaho) Julia of Boise, Idaho, Phillip who lives on a farm 4 miles north of Polk and Leonard and Oliver who now own and live on this same place. All are deceased but the 3 sons and Julia.

Charles died in 1945 at age 78 years. Mrs. Johnson died in 1944 at age 74 years.

All are buried at Swede Plain Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. John August Johnson moved to the Polk Community in the spring of 1909. John August Johnson and May M. Ice were married on February 19, 1902. They farmed $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles east and 1 mile south of Polk. Mr. Johnson was a valued custodian of Polk School for many years after their move to Polk.

There were six children. The three boys are deceased. The three girls are Mrs. Muriel Moore of Nevada, Missouri; Miss

Martha Johnson of Polk; and Miss Glee Johnson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The family home has been the family residence since 1918. Originally in west Polk, it was moved to its present location in 1928.

Martha, a long time schoolteacher, has retired and now lives in the family home at Polk.

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Johnson

Fred Johnson, an early pioneer, north of Polk was born in Hamilton County, where his father homesteaded land. Fred told how his father worked in Lincoln in early days and then would walk to Hamilton County on weekends while he improved his homestead which was 2 miles west of Polk. Fred married Emma Broddock. Children are Leroy of Osceola, Donald of Stromsburg, Oliver and Clarence of Polk and Adelia (Mrs. Elwyn Johnson) of Denver, Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Mr. & Mrs. William E. Johnson

William E. Johnson was born in Kewanee, Illinois in 1872 and came to Polk County, Nebraska as a small boy. He attended school at District #50 and also the Bryant Normal School at Stromsburg. In 1892 he was married to Johanna Larson. They spent their entire married life on a farm located 7½ miles northeast of Polk. Five children were born to this union: Edith Granere of York, Raymond E. Johnson who now owns a part of the home place and lives in Stromsburg, Martha Shostrom, who also owns a part of the home place and lives in Stromsburg, Bertha Peterson deceased and Wilmer E. Johnson of Stromsburg. The Johnsons were members of the First Baptist Church of Polk where he served as a trustee for a number of years. Mr. Johnson was active in community affairs serving on the Board of Directors of the Citizens State Bank, the Board of Education of District #70 for several years, the Board of the Farmer's Union Store at Polk and the Board of Directors of the Durant Elevator.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had the joy of celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in 1942 with all their children and grandchildren present for the occasion.

The Johnsons are the grandparents of Don Shostrom of Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Axel C. Jones

Axel Jones, born in Sweden in 1869 came to America in 1881 settling with his parents on a farm south of Polk. He was united in marriage to Nettie Charlotte Miller in 1894. Six children were born to this union, Carl, Martin, Oscar and Calmer, Clara (Jones) Anderson and Martha (Jones) Yohe. Martin and Clara still reside at Polk. He was church treasurer and on the Board of Trustees of the Polk Baptist Church where both he and his wife were active members.

I feel I've lost something very special. Do you? I used to enjoy evenings outside, looking at the mystery of the big golden moon, but now with all the moon explorations, all it means to me is a big blob of rock covered with a foot of dust. I wish it had been left to just be a moon; a romantic, lovely, evening joy.

Kealiher Family - Compiled by Gail D. Kealiher

Upper Row: Gordon, Gail, Russell, Noel, Marion. Front Row: Mable Elaine, Evangeline, Mrs. Moses Kealiher, Mr. Kealiher, Vivian K., and Evaline.

The Kealiher family name has been well known in the approximate area of six miles southeast of Polk, Nebraska since 1873. Sewall Kealiher (1811-1878) born in Bangor, Maine was united in marriage to Jane Stewart (1814-1896) born in County-down, Ireland. This couple reared a family of twelve children in Maine. Sewall and Jane Kealiher after having lived in Maine, Michigan, Illinois, and Missouri, returned to Michigan during the Civil War and in 1873 they moved by covered wagon with two of their younger sons Melintus Holden Kealiher (1854-1934) and David S. Kealiher (1856-1928) and settled three miles west of York, Nebraska. Sewall Kealiher by trade was a wheel-right, wagon maker and builder. The two sons were farmers and meat cutters. Sewall and Jane Kealiher purchased a farmstead which would now be considered as eight miles southeast of Polk in 1873 and built their home. The house which he built is still standing and has been home for other families during these past one hundred years. It is also known that the Kealiher's started one of the first Meat Markets in York, Nebraska in the early 1870's and were associated with such business from time to time with once owning the largest fresh and salted meat markets in the area known as the "Queen City Market" up until about 1917.

Melintus Holden Kealiher (1854-1934) born at Skowhegan, Maine having accompanied his parents to Nebraska, returned to Illinois in 1877 and was united in marriage on January 15, 1878 to Susie A. Russell (1852-1928) born at Uniontown, Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1878 they moved back to the farm in Nebraska to be with his mother Jane Kealiher. Melintus and Susie Kealiher had four children, one son and three daughters. During one of their travels away from the farm, Moses Howard Kealiher (1881-1968) was born at Maysville, Missouri. Melintus and wife continued with farming and meat market business by commuting by dray-wagon between farm and town, and enjoyed rearing their son and two surviving daughters on the farm. Moses Kealiher attended grade school at District 48, Marquette, and High School at Benedict. In the early 1900's he also attended York College one semester and was janitor at Benedict High School for two years.

Moses H. Kealiher was united in marriage on June 6, 1907 to Mabel P. Graves (1881-1954) who was born at Arborville, Nebraska of another prominent early pioneer family of Daniel and Martha (Loomet) Graves. Mabel (Graves) Kealiher attended School District #66 for her first 10 grades which were then taught here, and went on

to attend Red Cloud High School for her education. Moses and Mabel Kealiher after marriage lived in several rural areas. Russell L. Kealiher (1908) now of Wartrace Tennessee was born on a farm northeast of Bradshaw, Nebraska. Lucille Kealiher (1909-) was born in York, Nebraska as well as Vivian (Kealiher) Larsen (1910) now of Olympia, Washington. In the Spring of 1911 Moses and Mabel Kealiher moved to the farm six miles southeast of Polk across the road from where Mrs. Kealiher was born. This farm became their permanent home for the rest of their lives with Moses living there for fifty seven years.

This farm became the memorable home for Russell, Vivian and seven more children. Marion M. Kealiher (1913) now of Denver, Colorado, Mabel Elaine (Kealiher) Johnson (1915) now of Wichita, Kansas, Evangeline (Kealiher) Glenn (1917) now of Fairfield, Ohio, Evaline I. (Kealiher) Newbury (1919) now of Aurora, Colorado, Gordon E. Kealiher (1923) now of Germantown, Wisconsin, Noel E. Kealiher (1925) of Polk, Nebraska who is now the owner of the Kealiher farm, and Gail D. Kealiher (1930) now of Denver, Colorado. We as children all have favorite memories of early childhood days and now as adults we cherish the little incidents that seem to have played important parts in developing our lives. Our parents encouraged education and this is particularly so with our father since he also in his past had served as a school teacher on several occasions. It seems to be a safe remark that we all learned to listen to our father when he spoke. The nine of us children all attended School District #66 and were all graduated from Polk High School. Our school building known as District #66 of York County was moved into Polk County School District #72 in the early 1950's and became part of the school facilities. The older brothers and sister particularly often speak of how they rode horseback, bicycle, and in the buggy back and forth each day to high school, while others relate their efforts of working for their board and room. Several of us younger ones recall our days of car pools which also meant a little pushing and pulling, etc. for our rides to school.

Noel E. Kealiher was united in marriage on December 15, 1947 to Geraldine R. Miller (1929) born at Polk, Nebraska. To this union was born five children. Carolyn (Kealiher) Johnson (1949) now of Grand Island, Nebraska, Mary Lou (Kealiher) Fossberg (1950) now of Lincoln, Nebraska, Gerald N. Kealiher (1952) living at home with his parents is now the fifth Kealiher generation living in the area southeast of Polk, Nancy (Kealiher) Mundt (1954) now living approximately five and one-half miles southeast of Polk, living in part of the original house which her grandparents, Moses and Mabel Kealiher lived in when they were first married in 1907, and Jane Kealiher (1958) is living at home with her parents. The children of Noel and Geraldine Kealiher have all attended Polk County schools.

We, the descendents of Sewall and Jane Kealiher, have seen many changes take place since they first pioneered the Nebraska sod-land of the early 1870's. We are proud to be a part of this enriched farming area and to proclaim the heritage of our pioneer ancestry.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Kisler

Will Kisler was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kisler, who homesteaded the farm where James Wilson now resides. Henry Kisler sold the land to the Wilsons and moved to southern Oklahoma, buying land there.

In 1888 the family moved back to this area, building a sod house in the Arborville vicinity.

Will Kisler's children are Virgil and Henry, Polk carpenters, deceased, Ida Green, deceased, Verna Gibson of Malcom and Ed Kisler, deceased.

Mr. Kisler operated a store at Arborville at one time. Before that he collected, bought and sold, farm produce from farmers, making trips by horse and buggy.

Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Knerr

Mrs. S.J. Harless, one of Polk's older residents, traces her ancestry back to her father Fredrick Knerr who came from Germany, when a young man. The Knerr family will be remembered as having lived in the house now occupied by the Gordon Fossbergs, Henry and John, Misses Lucinda and Ella, children of Fredrick Knerr. Jacob married Lucania Greathouse in 1884 and they had two children, Grace and Elmer.

Grace married Sylvester Harless on January 12, 1905 and their children are: Stanley, of Stromsburg, Leland of Polk, and Vera Shay of York.

Elmer, who married Mabel Fisher, lived for many years on the farm now owned by Mrs. Victor Doremus. They both died in 1968 in a gas explosion at their farm home near Oshkosh.

Leland's children are Gary, Dick and Pamela.

William John Kroger

Will Kroger, the son of Mary and John Kroger was born at North Bend, Nebraska, in 1884 and passed away in 1968.

When Will was 13 years old, his father passed away. The family lived on a farm south of Hordville for many years.

After his father died, Will had to quit school and help make the living for his mother and two sisters and two brothers.

He was married to Ellen Steelquist in 1907. Four children were born to this union; one son passing away in infancy, a son Lloyd who passed away in 1958, two daughters, Lelah McNaught of Polk and Maxine Nelson of Loveland, Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Lampshire

Alma Russell and Gilbert Lampshire were married 47 years ago. They resided in Lincoln for a number of years before coming to Polk, Gilbert owning a cafe, and operating and owning the next door service station.

Gilbert's father was John Lampshire. Gilbert was born on a farm south of Hordville. His mother died when he was 4 years old. The family moved to Lincoln, later to North Dakota, to Dorchester a year, and then back to Lincoln. His father was a carpenter and also operated a garage.

Gilbert and Alma bought a farm near Polk 23 years ago and operated same. In 1964 they built a new house in west Polk.

They have traveled extensively, to Bogota, South America to visit son Wayne, a geologist for a large oil firm, and also to Anchorage, Alaska to visit the Wayne Lampshires.

They go often to Kansas City to visit their daughter Stella Rose (Mrs. Marvin) McKenzie. They have five grandchildren.

Mr. Lampshire has retired from active farming. He is chairman of the Polk Methodist Church board and is a director of Polk County Fair Board. He was secretary of the Polk Masonic Lodge seven years and Worthy Patron of the Eastern Star 3 years.

Their lovely lawn and fine garden attests to their love of flowers and working outdoors.

Carl and Emil Larson

Carl and Emil Larson came with their parents to Polk County in 1883 locating on a farm 4 miles northwest of Polk. They moved to Polk in 1921. They were skilled in carpentry and could make unusual and lovely wood articles.

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Lind

Albert Lind, son of John and Elizabeth Lind was born on August 13, 1862 at Galva, Illinois.

He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1877 where the family resided on a farm in the Swede Plain Community.

On March 16, 1886, he was united in marriage to Miss Ellanora Norton, and to this union six children were born; four daughters, Hannah, Winnie, who passed away in infancy, Florence, and Nellie, two sons, Harvey and Lennis. They had twelve grandchildren.

In 1892, they purchased their home farm where they lived the rest of their lives. Their son, Lennis and wife Berniece are still living on the old home place. Albert and Ellanora Lind became members of the Swede Plain Methodist Church, September 12, 1897, where they were active faithful members, serving in numerous offices in the church during their lifetime.

On March 16, 1936, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Mrs. Lind passed away on April 17, 1938 and Mr. Lind on January 11, 1944.

They, like many other early pioneers of this community, experienced in their lifetime a way of toil, trials, sacrifices and self-denial, but they lived to see the great progress, prosperity and success that came to this vicinity through their noble efforts.

Mr. and Mrs. Amel Lind

Amel Lind, born in Illinois in 1870, came with his parents, six brothers and two sisters on his tenth birthday to Polk County. He resided here all the rest of his life, dying in 1952.

Mr. Lind married Ellen Anderson in 1894. They were the parents of four children, Mrs. Emma Anderson, Miss Lillie Lind and Mrs. Wilbur Whitacre who live in Polk and Lloyd who lives on a farm north east of Polk.

A faithful attendant at Swede Plain Church, he sang in the choir and served on the church board. After his farm retirement in 1936, he and his wife purchased his mother's home in Polk where he lived until his death.

Emma and Winnie reside there now.

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Lind

Henry Robert Lind, son of John and Elizabeth Lind, was born in Galva, Illinois on August 10, 1864. When a boy of 13 years, he came with his family to Nebraska to make their new home.

On June 17, 1887, he was united in holy matrimony with Miss Esther Nyquist. To this union were born four daughters: Jennie, Mabel, Hattie and Esther; three sons; Clarence, Carl and Lawrence. They had 21 grandchildren. All their married life was lived within the Stromsburg and Polk communities.

They were early members of the Swede Plain Methodist Church, where they were active, loyal members, serving in many capacities of service.

They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in June, 1937.

Mr. Lind passed away on August 20, 1941 and his wife Esther. on March 17, 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lind

In 1875, a young married couple, John and Elizabeth Lyrberg Lind bade farewell to their homeland, Ockolbo, Sweden, and came to the United States and settled in Galva, Illinois where they lived for twelve years. The lure to go westward now came upon the family, and John Lind went to Nebraska and bought three hundred acres of land at $5.00

In September 1878, the oldest son, Alex came to Nebraska in a covered wagon. He brought an extra team of horses with him. This trip from Galva, Illinois took eighteen days.

The next spring in 1879, Albert and Hannah, the oldest daughter and second son, came to Silver Creek as this town was the nearest. Here the farm implements, the two mules and the cow that they brought with them by freight were unloaded.

In the fall of 1879, brother John came to help in breaking up the land and planting the crops. Wheat was the first crop raised. The grain was cut with a mower and tied by hand.

On February 3, 1880, which was Amel's tenth birthday, the rest of the family came to Nebraska. Father came on the freight train with the stock, farm machinery, and household goods; Will came along with him to get a free ride. Mother and the four smaller children came on the passenger train to Stromsburg as the Union Pacific had just been completed to this place.

The first home John and Elizabeth owned was located 4½ miles east of Polk. Father and Mother lived on the home place until 1904 when they moved to Stromsburg. They moved to Polk in 1912. He died in 1913, she in 1925.

Mr. & Mrs. John Lind

John Lind, son of John and Elizabeth Lind was born in Galva, Illinois on January 18, 1868. When 9 years of age, he came with his family to Nebraska to make their home on a farm in the area which later became known as the Swede Plain Community.

On March 14, 1894, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Anderson in a double wedding ceremony along with her sister, Ellen Anderson and his brother, Amel Lind. To this union four children were born; two daughters, Rose and Edith, two sons, Martin and De Vern. There were 18 grandchildren.

In 1907, John and Anna Lind became members of the Swede Plain Methodist Church where they were loyal members, serving in many ways in the work of the church.

Mr. Lind passed away on December 15, 1943 and his wife, Anna, on April 7, 1951.

Mr. & Mrs. William Lindburg

The Lindburg families date their ancestry's coming to the Polk area to 1878. They came in a covered wagon. William was one of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Lindburg. Brothers were Charley, Amel, Arthur, Edward, and Anna Lindburg (England).

William A. Lindburg and Josephine Berggren of Stromsburg were married in June of 1888 and settled on a farm north of Polk, which is owned by Lindburgs (Dale Lindburg resides there).

They had seven children, Cecil, Eleanor, Ruth (Aker), Willard, Maurice, Josephine (Wurtz) and Evelyn (Haggart).

Willard, Maurice and Ruth Aker reside at Polk, Josephine at Clarks and Evelyn at Grand Island.

The Lindburg family is accredited to being the organizers of the Polk Baptist Church. Mr. Lindburg served on the Polk Board of Education 15 years, both his wife and he were active members of Polk County Farm organizations and prominent in civic and county affairs.

Mrs. Eric Lindquist

Eric and Carrie Lindquist and five children came to Polk County in 1879 from Galva, Illinois. They both were born in Sweden. They settled on a timber claim of 80 acres, two miles south and ½ mile west of Polk. Their first home was a sod house. They later built a frame house, which was moved later to Polk and now is owned by Mrs. Clarence Guthrie.

Four of their 9 children died in early youth from the measles. This was a very deadly disease in the early days. The family suffered many hardships, as did other pioneers.

Grandmother Lindquist was always smoking or had a corn cob pipe in her mouth, when rocking a baby, cooking or doing any other labor. She was always helping out a friend or a neighbor in need. Grandfather Lindquist had poor health, so she carried the load.

The Lindquist children attended school at Frog Pond which was located in the same section as their home. None of them had very many years of schooling as it was necessary for them to help the family with finances.

Eric died in 1912 at 75 years of age and Carrie in 1911 at 67 years. They, along with their four children that died in early youth are buried in the Lyndale Cemetery, located 3 miles west and 1 south of Polk.

Tillie, Henry, Edward, John and Alvin lived to maturity. Tillie married John Collison of Ord. They had 4 sons and 3 daughters of which 3 sons are still living in Nebraska. Henry married Lydia Collison and they had 1 daughter and 1 son who is deceased. Genevieve Johnson and husband Raymond live in Stromsburg. John and his wife Clara had 2 sons both surviving, one lives in Washington and the other in Oregon. Edward married Hattie Steelquist settling on a farm one mile south of Polk. They had 4 children, a son dying in infancy. Morris and his wife Viva live at Central City. Myrtle Bush and husband Vergil live on the home place. Mervin resides in Omaha. The youngest, Albin, who was born in a sod house, married Anna Nelson. He also farmed for many years on a farm in York County about 1 mile south of the homestead. They had 3 children. An infant son died. Bernice Elliston and husband Ray reside at Greeley, Colorado and Esther Larson and husband Lawrence live on a farm near Polk.

Edward and Albin and their families attended Polk Methodist Church in Polk, where Esther Larson and Myrtle Bush are still active members.

All the Lindquist family is deceased. Their children and grandchildren have many happy memories of their parents and grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. McClure

Mr. and Mrs. J.C. McClure spent most of their lifetime in the Polk locality. Mrs. McClure, the former Luanna Stevens was born in 1875 in Polk County and was a former school teacher before her marriage in 1896 to Joseph C. McClure. Mr. McClure was born in Illinois in 1870. He came to Polk County where he taught school in Districts 65, 26, and 45. Both were faithful members of the early Cooper Church, transferring to the Polk Methodist Church where they continued

their faithful service. He was a long time church official, Sunday School Superintendent, taught the men's Bible Class for 30 years and was chairman of the building committee when the Polk Methodist Church was built. He was also school board director in District 65.

They lived on the Jamier Stevens homestead north of Polk for 30 years, moving into Polk in 1928. Here he was custodian of Polk School for many years.

Their children are Alice (Mrs. Vern Walden) of Valley, Julia (Mrs. Clyde Rice) of Erie, Kansas, and James of Norco, California. George (deceased) was their foster son.

Mr. McClure died in 1952 and Mrs. McClure in 1956.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick McConnell

Mr. and Mrs. Dick McConnell lived on a farm 1½ miles northeast of Polk and moved to Polk during World War I. Mr. McConnell was born in Illinois in 1862 and died in 1931. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Samuel McConnell, Sr., early pioneers of the Arborville vicinity. Mrs. McConnell was the former Ida Horn.

Their five children were Florence, Samuel, Emeline, Lucy and Leona.

Mr. and Mrs. Calmar McCune

Mr. and Mrs. Calmar McCune were early active civic and church workers at Polk. Mr. McCune was vice-president of the group who bought the land and laid out the village of Polk.

Born in Polk County, he had been assistant cashier of the First National Bank at Stromsburg before coming to Polk and building a lovely home which overlooks the city park (now occupied by Bob Baack and family). At that time, it was one of Polk's finest homes.

He was an officer of the First National Bank of Polk and both he and his wife took an active part in Methodist Church affairs. A relative recalls that he was treasurer of the church when the present edifice was built. Both he and his wife taught Sunday School classes. His wife, the former Grace Montgomery of York, was a charter member of the Polk Culture Club. The family moved to Haxtun about 1918. His children are: Calmar, a lawyer in Seattle and Wesley, who is in Public Relations work in Washington, D.C.

Up to the time of his death a few years ago, he made regular visits to Polk to visit his nephew James Wilson and talk to old friends and also to attend services at the Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. William P. Miller

William P. Miller was born in 1880 on his fathers homestead west of Polk and spent his entire life in this community. He married Anna Rydson in 1911 and 2 sons were born to this union, namely Orlie and Floyd. They had four grandchildren.

They farmed for many years near Polk and later moved to Polk where he was in partnership in a cafe. Mr. Miller was County Commissioner for 2 terms. Orlie and wife live in Polk and Floyd lives near Polk.

Orlie's son Dwayne and family now live on this homestead, making five Miller generations who have lived on this place.

Discontent is the price we pay for not being thankful for what we have.

Mr. and Mrs. D.N. Mills

Hazel Frances Shockey and Dennis Nolan Mills were married at Grand Island on March 12, 1919. Both grew up in the Polk community and have lived here all of their lives except for about ten years at Palmer.

"Butch" as he is known, was a garage mechanic at the Stark Stouffer Garage. Later he established the Mills Auto Co., selling Chevrolet cars and also fixing them. They lived in their home in southwest Polk. He retired from fixing cars, as well as lawn mowers about 4 years ago. Mr. Mills died in May, 1974.

Mr. and Mrs. John Myers

Mrs. Lula Myers, who is Polk's oldest lady (92 in October) is shown sitting on a couch 60 years old, "The springs aren't broke either" she quipped. (See Personality Sketch.)

Born in Ohio, the family came to Polk in 1910. At that time just freight trains came into town. They had to come to Central City by sleeping car; quite a luxury.

John's brother, Z.F. Myers had come to Polk 3 months before. Houses were scarce, so they lived 10 weeks with the brother and family (sisters had married brothers).

She has lived in the house they bought from Ernest Hahn, 64 years. "Paid $800 for it, got $500 worth of lumber, made new doors and windows. Albert Sundberg offered us $2400 for it after the remodeling." "I've lived in Polk longer than anyone else."

John had a skating rink a short time. Then he started in blacksmith business. He'd learned this trade at age fourteen.

Mrs. Myers has 5 children, Vivian (Mrs. Lee Bayer) of Polk, Clarence of Polk, Raymond of Idaho, Dwight, of Polk, Betty (Mrs. Brent) Stapleton, Vancouver, Washington. Four are deceased.

"I never take an aspirin - I just wring out a towel I've dipped in cold water and apply to my head." She only weighs a little over 100 lbs., but she's active, does most of her own houseworks and as told about in the personality sketch section, makes rugs from rags cut and woven into burlap backing.

Mr. and Mrs. Z.F. Myers

Zenas Myers and family came from Ohio in 1910 to make his home at Polk. He first operated the Dray business. Later he was known as the "Ice man", as each year he put up ice and sold it in the summer.

Mr. Myers bought land near Polk, made two ponds on it, put down a 90 foot well and built a large ice house. The ice was cut and stored, with straw packing, in the ice house and sold by the "chunk" when warm weather came. Home made ice cream was a popular delicacy, with about 50 lbs. of ice freezing two gallons.

Later, Mr. Myers had a dairy that kept Jersey milk on the table of Polk housewives.

He and his family were active members of the Baptist Church. He served as mayor of Polk, marshal, Fire Chief, and member of town board. He held offices

in both the IOOF and Masonic Lodge in Polk.

The six children of this fine couple are PHS graduates. Five went on to college, four became teachers, Fern of Gothenburg teaching 40 years.

He has two living children, Alice (Mrs. Earl Burke of Stromsburg and Richard of Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. Olof Naslund

William Naslund now owns the Olof Naslund home place where his parents lived before him. He resided here before moving with his wife Lola Hansen Carlson to Stromsburg in 1972.

Olof Naslund was born in Sweden in 1855. He came to America at age 16.

In 1881 he was united in marriage to Anna Stoneberg who also had been born in Sweden and had come to America with her parents when 3 years old.

Olof and Anna started housekeeping on the farm her folks homesteaded, first in a sod house 4 miles north and one-half east of the Swede Plain Church. Later a wooden structure house was built one-half mile north of the Swede Plain Church. They lived here all of their married life except for 4 years when they lived 5 miles southwest of the homestead.

Later when Mrs. Naslunds parents passed away they returned to the homestead and lived there.

Olof and Anna were the parents of eleven children: Albion, Nora, David, Hanna, Selma, Luther, Mabel, Elmer, Edith and William, an infant. All are deceased but Elmer (who lives in Polk with his wife Bertha) and William.

Olof Naslund died in 1926 and his wife in 1942. Both are buried in the Swede Plain Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. August F. Nelson

Coming from Knoxville to Polk in 1912, the family was one of Polk's early residents.

Mr. Nelson was a painter and paper hanger until his retirement in 1942.

One daughter, Mrs. Russell Fjell, resides on a farm near Polk, Naomi Foutch resides in Omaha, Howard and Lawrence of Portland, Oregon, Sterling of York, Dean of Lincoln, and Marjorie Holm Peterson of Stromsburg.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are told about under "Personality Sketches."

Mr. and Mrs. James Peter Nelson

James Peter Nelson and his wife the former Kristine Lindburg were born and married in Sweden. They came to America in 1886 and came to Stark, Nebraska. Their ten children were August, Esther, Marie, Gertie, Ellen, Dora, Othelia, Albert, Robert and Walter. Dora is a resident of the Good Samaritan Home at Osceola and Walter and wife live in Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Nelson

John W. Nelson, born in Sweden, came to the Stark community west of Polk in 1877. Here he met and married Mathilda Rydson in 1888. They built a sod house in which they lived for many years. Their two sons were Leonard and LeRoy and 3 daughters, Martha, Ellen Larson and an infant that died. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary living at their farm house all these years except two. A son, LeRoy lives on the home place and a daughter Martha (Mrs. Ed Larson) lives at the York Manor. They had 3 grandchildren.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nelson

Blanche Shroyer and Robert Nelson met at Grand Island fifty years ago. Blanche of Idaho was attending Grand Island Business School and Robert was employed at the Union Pacific Railroad yards. Both stayed at the Chas Jones home.

They were married in September of 1924 and came to Polk. Robert was a Polk businessman in the well, plumbing and heating business until he suffered a heart attack about 15 years ago. He died in 1966.

Their children are: Romona Mau of Giltner, Ada Marie Springer of Grand Island, Dale of Lincoln, Jo Ellen Peters of Lincoln, Chas of Central City, Karen Blase of Polk, Bill of Lincoln. There are 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Nelson, who for the past 15 years has operated Blanche's Beauty Shop is a member of Eastern Star and of Royal Neighbors Lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Nelson

Walter Nelson has resided at Polk since 1910 the youngest of nine children. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Nelson came to the Stark area (between Polk and Hordville) in 1886. The farm was owned by Grandpa Nels Nelson.

Walter was born in 1905, in Greeley where the family lived for a short time. Later they moved to the Osceola area and then to Polk in 1910.

Walter was married April 17, 1930 at the Baptist Church to Carol Burke and they resided on the then Chas McGinnis farm south of Polk. In 1944 they moved to Polk and Walter was employed as a truck delivery operator for the Farmers Co-op Oil Company. Later for three years he was town manager.

They have one son, Marvin of Broken Bow, a trucker, and five grandchildren.

Walter has served as deacon of the Polk Baptist Church 25 years, also on the Polk County Credit Union Board.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Nelson

Betty Josephine Jonnson and Theodore J. Nelson were married on January 1896 and established their home on a farm near Stark, Nebraska. They moved to Polk in 1928 and "T.J." as he was called started a shoe repair store. They were active members of the Polk Baptist Church. They have one son and five daughters, Mrs. Edith Evans, Mrs. Mildred Snodgrass, Mrs. Victoria (Ira) Glasser, Gertrude, Hazel and Harold Nelson. Victoria and her husband live in Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard A. Newton

Married in 1900, Willard Newton and Ida Streeter began housekeeping on a farm south of Polk. Welcomed into their home several years later were two children, Cecil and Grace, by adoption. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Barret Newton and Ida was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Streeter. They had seven grandchildren. A daughter-in-law, Mrs. Margaret Lott, the former Mrs. Cecil Newton, lives in Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Nierman

Ernest Niermanwas born in 1879 in Polk County and grew to manhood in this community. His parents were Charles and Anna Nierman. In 1904 he married Minnie C. Vogt and seven daughters were born to this union. They are Mrs. Ewald Klingsborn, Mrs. Edmund Klingsborn, Mrs. Earl Waak, Mrs. Roy Heiden, Mrs. Louis Heiden, Mrs. John Hoffman and Miss Linda Nierman. They had 15 grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Norton

Three generations have lived on the farm on which Charles Norton broke the sod and built a frame house.

There were eight children born to this pioneer couple; J.N. Norton, who served in the Nebraska legislature and later represented this area in Washington, D. C. (he was well known). His daughter Evelyn Lincoln, who was secretary for President Kennedy, resides there now. A grandson, Bill of Osceola, is an attorney and practices at Polk.

Two of the Norton children died of diphtheria. A daughter, Nettie Carlson owns the family farm and lives there with her son Ellsworth. Another son, Gordon helps with the farm and dairy herd.

Charles O. Norton, son of Olof and Catherine (Moller) Nordeen was born in 1842, in Hillesocken, Sweden.

In the fall of 1849 he with his parents, came to America. While enroute the mother died on a canal boat from cholera.

Reared in Illinois, Charles O. Norton received a good education in the public schools of Andover, which he attended until eighteen years of age.

In 1864, he enlisted in Company A, Forty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry and joined his regiment at Little Rock, Arkansas. He was mustered out of service in November, 1865.

On October 8, 1866, Mr. Norton married Miss Mary S. Hurty of Andover, Illinois. They had three children: Eleanora, John N., and Nettie.

In 1873 Mr. Norton homesteaded the tract where he lived until his death in 1929. He built a small house on his homestead the first year and planted ten acres of sod corn, three of wheat and five of oats. In 1874, the year of the dreadful grasshopper plague almost his entire crop was destroyed by the insects. In 1888 he erected a large, comfortable residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Norton were leading members of the Swedish Methodist Church, known as the Swede Plain Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nyberg

Nels Nybergwas born in Halsingland, Sweden in 1849. Hewas married to Ella Oldsdotter in 1875 in Sweden and came to Polk County in 1881 with their sons Olof and Nels S., and settled in Pleasant Home Precinct Northeast of Polk. A church was built on their farm adjoining the farm place in 1900, which became known as the "Nyberg" church, and which later, in 1909, became the Evangelical Free Church in Polk. Ella died in 1911 and Nels in 1918.

Olof Nyberg married Mary Sjobloom who also came from Sweden. They were married in 1906. Mary had come with her brother John about 2 years before. They had six children: Rudolph, Edwin, Philip, Henry, Helen and Leonard. Olof lived on the home place where his father had settled until his death in 1939. His oldest son Rudolph then moved to the place and lived there until his death in 1970, when his oldest son Merlin moved to the farm place and continues to live there.

Nels S. Nyberg married Carrie Nordstrom and lived on an adjoining farm. He later was in business in Polk and then moved to California. They had two children, Betty and Maurice.

Other children of Nels and Ella Nyberg born in Nebraska were: Esther, who married Rev. E.H. Lindquist who served as Pastor of the Evangelical Free Church in Stromsburg and later moved to California. Their children were: Raymond, Judith, Melvin, Alvin, Ruth, Phoebe and Stanley.

Arthur married Esther Nelson and lived in Kingsburg, California.

Ellen married Ben Madole and lived in Seattle, Washington. They had no children.

Walter married Rose Lind and lived on a farm northeast of Polk near Swede Plain. Their children were: Elaine, Doris, Duane, Margaret, Rose Marie, John, Virginia, Shirley, Dale, Ronald and Donald. For several years, Olof, Nels S. and Walter lived on adjoining farms within 3/4 mile of each other

All of the second generations are now deceased. The third generation is scattered over the U.S. in a variety of occupations. Several are engaged in Christian service including: Rev. Henry Nyberg, pastor of an Evangelical Free Church in Chicago; Helen, serving with the Kentucky Mountain Mission of the Evangelical Free Church; Rev. Raymond Lindquist, Pastor of Hollywood Presbyterian Church; Rev. Virgil Nyberg, Rocky Mountain District Superintendent for the Evangelical Free Church; Elaine Nyberg Ascanio, wife of a Pastor of an Evangelical Free Church in Madera, California.

Continuing to live in the Polk area are the following: Philip Nyberg, of Osceola, Attorney and Abstractor; John Nyberg, farmer northeast of Polk; Virginia Nyberg Samuelson, on a farm west of Polk; Rose Marie Nyberg Stranberg, on a farm southwest of Hordville; Dale Nyberg, on a farm near Central City; and Donald Nyberg, with Farmers Co-op Grain in Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. Peterson

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. Peterson came to Pleasant Home Precinct in 1886 and settled on a farm 3¼ miles northeast of Polk. Here they resided the rest of their lives. For the first 2 years they lived in a sod house which had been built on their farm. Then they built a two story frame house.

Mr. Peterson was born in Horn, Sweden, in 1842 and died in 1924. When 7 years of age he came with his parents to the United States. His father died enroute to America and his mother settled in Jefferson County, Iowa. When 19 years of age he enlisted in the Civil War

and served from 1861 to 1865. He was wounded in the leg at the battle of Guntown, Mississippi and rode 70 miles on horseback before he received any medical aid. Then the commanding hospital officer wanted to amputate his leg, but he refused. The bullet remained in his leg all his life. At another time a Confederate gun shell hit the New Testament he was carrying in his shirt pocket and glanced off, saving his life. His sweetheart, who later became his wife had given him the New Testament before he entered the Union Army.

In 1868 he married Matilda Samuelson at Swede Methodist Church at New Sweden, Iowa. Mrs. Peterson was born in Hemboga, Sweden.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson farmed in Jefferson County, Iowa near New Sweden for 18 years before coming to Polk County.

They were faithful members of the early Methodist Church and later the Free Methodist Church. He served on the school board of District 26 for many years.

Their children are all deceased. They were Frank, Florence (Mrs. William A. Stevens), Emma, Finney; Esther (wife of Rev. Adrian Main), Ervin, and Bertha, (Mrs. Walter Binford). They have several grandchildren and great grandchildren living near Polk.

Mr. & Mrs. Enoch Peterson

Enoch is one of Polk's few residents who once lived in a sod house.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claus (Nellie) Peterson came from Sweden when Enoch was a young man. His father's name in Sweden was Gunnerson, but he changed it to Peterson.

Enoch lived a half mile southwest of Polk, the house being near the center of the section.

He recalls the old horse and mule hitched together that broke up the sod to make the house walls of that soddy. The walls were 3 feet thick. He was about 10 years of age when his father built a frame house.

Enoch attended Frog Pond school and went to school through the "fifth reader."

He married Anna Carlson who came from Sweden as a young girl. They lived on their farm west of Polk many years, moving to Polk in 1953. He retired from farming in 1964. Mrs. Peterson died in late 1973. He has one daughter Gloria Griffin of Orange, California and 2 grandchildren.

Enoch's brothers and sisters are Dr. Arthur of Central City, Colorado, Julia Jones of Blair and Esther Morgan of O'Neill. Two brothers, Leonard and Bennie are deceased.

Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead! Fill their lives with sweetness! Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them, and while their hearts can be thrilled by them.

-- Henry Ward Beecher

Mr. & Mrs. Frank E Peterson

Frank E. Peterson, born August 22, 1869, moved from Iowa to Polk County with his parents in 1886.

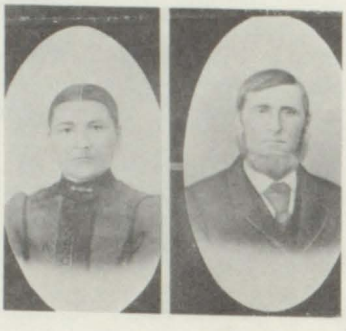
Frank married Jessie Garretson, born on February 23, 1898 and they moved to a farm near the Polk Cemetery.

Frank was active in the Free Methodist Church, served on the Board of Directors of the Polk Cemetery Association and was interested in Farmers' Organizations. Jessie was active in the Women's Missionary Society of the Church.

Frank passed away at the farm home in 1933. Jessie moved with the family to the Denver area in 1938 where she passed away at Englewood, Colorado in 1968.

A son Ralph resides at Columbus, Nebraska. Lloyd C., Charles, Nathan, and Margaret live in Denver. Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas P. Peterson



Mr. and Mrs. Jonas P. Peterson came to Pleasant Home Precinct in 1886 settling on a farm 5½ miles northeast of the present town of Polk. Mr. Peterson was born in Sweden in 1841 and came to Bishop Hill, Illinois in 1867. Here he was married in 1871 to Christina Nelson. They farmed in Illinois for 15 years, before coming here.

Mr. Peterson was an extensive farmer and enjoyed raising livestock, especially sheep. They carded the wool and made their own batts for quilts.

Four children were born to this union: Emma (Mrs. John H. Anderson), Hilda (Mrs. Ed Anderson) and Fred and John. With the exception of Hilda all spent their lifetime in this locality.

Grandchildren, Norris, Forrest and Irvin Anderson live on farms between Polk and Stromsburg, Nina Knerr, Mildred Hultgren in Stromsburg and Lillian James in Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Putman

Horace Putman, born in Illinois in 1855 and Catherine Kennison, born in Iowa in 1858, came to Nebraska in about 1870. They were united in marriage at York, Nebraska December 22, 1875. Horace was a Civil War veteran. They homesteaded in Pleasant Home Precinct 4 miles east and 1 mile north of the present site of Polk. Horace was a well digger and farmer and built many wells in this neighborhood. Catherine was a school teacher.

Seven children were born to this couple: Rutherford B., Nellie (Harless, Nelson), Mabel F. (Stevens), Lucinda C. (Welch), Pearl M. (Clark), Horace Blaine, and Lorance (died in infancy).

At the age of 49, April 24, 1895, Mr. Putman passed away from blood poisoning.

Mrs. Putman and the children managed the farm. She was a charter member of the Cooper Methodist Church where her family attended Sunday School and church and the daughters were church organists.

In the early 1900's, Mrs. Putman spent 3½ months during 2 summers homesteading in Wyoming and in this way, acquired a section of land there. A period of 7 months out of a year entitled the homesteader to the land.

Mrs. Putman passed away March 5, 1931, at the age of 73. At the time of her death she was living in her home she had built in Polk, a block and one half west of Polk Post office where Martin Hoffman now resides. Daughters Mabel and Nellie also spent their entire lifetime in the Polk vicinity. The only living member of the Putman family is the youngest daughter, Pearl Clark, who is living with her daughter, Evelyn Warrick, at Caliente, California at the age of 88.

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Ramage

The "Little Store on the Corner" is believed to be Polk's first grocery store. Mr. and Mrs. Grand Ramage, who were among Polk's first residents, operated the store. They had come to Nebraska from Illinois, on their honeymoon, intending to make their home in Central City.

They purchased what they thought was the most desirable location on mainstreet, the building where the Citizen's State Bank now stands.

A son, Richard was Polk's first baby, although he was born in Central City. Mrs. Ramage had gone there to stay with friends, but she insisted that Dr. Westfall deliver her baby. Richard's twin sister died shortly after birth.

The Ramages, who lived in the back room of their store, were active Baptist Church members.

George Reeb - Henry Reeb

George Reeb was born in Germany in 1855. His wife was born there also. He came to the United States when a young man, after being a soldier in the German army. The family first settled in Peoria, Ill. Their two oldest children, Henry Reeb and Mrs. Chas. (Emma) Carlson were born in Illinois.

Henry, who is now 84 years of age, says he was about 1½ years old when the family moved ten miles southwest of Polk. Then they moved to a farm for a short time northwest of Polk.

Later Mr. Reeb purchased about 400 acres of land near Polk. The 80 acres owned by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Ramsey (Mrs. Ramsey being Henry's daughter) is part of the Reeb farm, the house on the farm being built by George Reeb over 60 years ago. Jack and Alex Johnson and Elmer Cash of Polk were the carpenters for this large two story home.

Henry recalls as a boy of about 12 starting a bad habit, which he still has - chewing snuff. He also tells of the first cigar that his mother saw him smoke.... His father, enroute home from town who was aware of his son's habit, offered him one of the nice long cigars he had bought for 6 for 25¢ at Polk. He was about 21 years of age. He decided he'd startle mother. He walked in the house puffing away. She saw, but didn't say a word. He kept on bravely puffing. She came by him, grabbed the cigar out of his mouth, took it to the kitchen stove, lifted the lid, threw it in, and walked to the basement, - never saying a word. Henry quickly dashed to the stove, opened the lid, grabbed the half-smoked cigar and went out of the house (the fire embers were low and the cigar had not burned.) ...Mother never mentioned the incident and he didn't smoke-when she saw-for as long as he stayed at home. His tobacco chewing was a "never in the house" thing also, while he was under his parents' roof.

Henry says his class was the first one to be confirmed in the present Immanuel Lutheran Church. That was in 1904. His wife, the former Alvena Blase, died in 1964.

He recalls as a youth that a group of boys enjoyed coming to Polk, getting on the railroad handcars and pumping back and forth taking rides to Durant and back. They never did get caught by authorities, - fortunately... He recalls playing Sunday baseball in Hamilton County - Sunday games were not allowed in Polk County then.

Henry earned some of his first "off the farm" spending money by hauling sand from Railroad cars to make sidewalks in Polk...He had to scoop to load and unload.. He loved to watch baseball games and recalls before Polk was laid out that there was a baseball diamond where the old hotel stands and that Glen (Shorty) Green was a star player, along with Bert Cummings, Wm. Kroger and Calhoun boys. There were games also at the Johnson corner two miles out of Polk each Sunday.

Henry lives alone in his two-story house in west Polk. His only child Mrs. Ramsey and family moved from the old farm home - in the family over 70 years - to Kearney in 1972. He has three grandchildren.

Henry's sisters are Mrs. Will Garling, Kansas, Mrs. L.E. Blase, Mrs. Victor Kerker, all of Kansas. His daughter Arvilla Rehrs died two years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence O. Rodine

Polk's postmaster for 15 years, Clarence Rodine was the son of Charles and Amanda Rodine. He lived all his life in the Polk and Hordville communities. He attended Nebraska Central College in Central City.

Married in 1919 to Hannah Sundberg, they had three sons, Donald of Beaverton, Oregon; Dr. Floyd of Ellenburg, Washington, and Clarence of Atlantic, Georgia.

Mr. Rodine served in World War I in U.S. and in France.

He was manager of the elevator at Hordville 32 years and served as Polk's postmaster from 1954 to 1969.

Members of the Evangelical Free Church, he was church chairman for 30 years, served 35 years on the board of directors of the Hordville Bank and was a member of the Hordville School Board for many years. He

was active in support of the Polk Bible Camp, Gideon Society and Veterans of World War I.

Mrs. Rodine lives in the family home at Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Rodgers

Married in 1900, the Rodgers lived on a farm north of Polk for many years. He was an early carpenter in Polk and built many of Polk's early homes.

Mrs. Rodgers was the former Coral Sealey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Sealey. Their two children were Alice and Russell, both deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. August Sandberg

August Sandberg came to America from Sweden in 1896 at the age of 26 years. He located at Detroit Michigan, later going to Minnesota and then to Omaha where he was in the dairy business.

He married Clara Johnson of Omaha in 1905. She too had been born in Sweden.

They came to Polk County in 1905 living north of Polk. To this union were born 2 children, namely Elmer of Clarks and Lillie (Mrs. William Kingsley) of Central City.

In 1919 they moved to a farm 6 miles north and ½ west of Polk. Their son Elmer now owns and lives on this same farm.

Mrs. Sandberg died October 16, 1934 and Mr. Sandberg died two years later. Both are buried at Swede Home Cemetery.

Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Sandell

Sylvia Fossberg and Wallace Sandell, married in 1932, have lived in this community all of their lives.

They lived on the Sandell farm southwest of Polk until 1973 when they bought the former Mrs. Martha Larson home and moved into Polk.

Wallace has served on various boards, 37 years on the Baptist Church board (has been chairman of trustees), 5 years on the Farmers Co-op Oil, Farmers Produce and Polk County Credit Union Boards.

Sylvia has been Baptist Church clerk for 27 years, has served as president of Women's Missionary Society, Polk County Women's chairman of Farm Bureau and on the State Legislature Board, treas. of Polk County Republican Women's Club.

They are the parents of 3 children, Neal of Polk, Kent of Lindoln, Diane Hanke of Palmer. They have 7 grandchildren.

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Sandell

The father of Wallace, Elwood, and LaVar Sandell, Henry Sandell was born in the Swede Home area. He married Hilma Benson in 1907 and they lived on her parents' farm, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. LaVar Sandell, 3 miles southwest of Polk.

They lived there 13 years, then moved a mile west to the farm owned by Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Sandell.

Mrs. Sandell died in 1930. Henry moved to Polk in 1932 and married Mrs. Ellen Thoren of Stromsburg. Henry Sandell died in 1953.

He was a Baptist Church board member at Hordville when the family lived on the farm, and later a trustee of the Polk Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. James T Sealey

In 1876, Mr. and Mrs. James T. Sealey came to Polk County from Iowa and homesteaded on 80 acres of land north of Polk. Mrs. Sealey was the former Luanna Stevens, and first came to Polk County in a covered wagon with her brother, Jamier Stevens and his wife, Julia. She returned to Iowa where she married James Sealey, a brother of Mrs. Jamier Stevens, and came again to Nebraska. They were the parents of five children, Coral (Mrs. John Rodgers), Daisy (Mrs. John Foutch), Edmund an infant, all deceased, and Ray of Denver, Colorado.

When a young man, Mr. Sealey was crossing a river in Iowa when he hit quicksand and was being buried in it. Struggling to get out, he promised the Lord that if his life was spared he would serve Him the rest of his days. And he faithfully did. Both were charter members of the Polk Methodist Church.

James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sealey who came here in 1880.

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Sealey

James Ray Sealey, who on November 4th of this year will be 90 years of age, is the last of the living children of the late James Sealey. He resides in Denver.

The family have resided in this area almost 100 years. His first wife was Ida Stromberg, who died in 1927. His children are Morris and Cleo of Manteca, California, Richard of Polk, Evangeline Newton, of Denver, and Opal and Nyle, deceased. He later married Mayme Manker who died in 1970. They had one son, Robert.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN? ? ?
Taxes were a nuisance rather than a burden?
A life sentence did not mean a parole in seven years?
Our flag was respected at home as well as abroad?
You were safe on the streets, as well as in your home?

Richard Sealey married Agnes Brown. Their three children are Dorothy Cramer of Stromsburg, who loves antiques, Richard, Jr. who is a prominent athletic coach and Romona Steuben. Richard has been chairman of the Polk County ASC many years.

The family originally came from England. This family is of five generations.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Shostrom

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Shostrom came to Pleasant Home Precinct in 1872 and spent the rest of their lives on a farm northeast of Polk. Mrs. Shostrom was the former Christina Ericson. Their first home was a sod shanty which they lived in during the severe Easter Blizzard of 1873. Mr. Shostrom was an excellent blacksmith having a shop on his farm where he repaired wagons and other farm implements for early settlers. He also painted buggies and carriages and was considered an expert in the art of striping and decorating them. Mr. Shostrom was a member of the school board of District 51 as was his son, Edwin.

Their children were Eleanora, Louisa, Stella, Albin, Minnie, Ralph, Helen, Lillian and Edwin, all of whom are deceased. One grandson, Ted Stutheit is with the State Parks Commission in Lincoln. He was formerly superintendent of Fort Kearney Park at Kearney, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Shostrom

Ira Shostrom was born in Kewanee, Illinois in 1872 and passed away in 1962. He was married to the former Alma Dahlin, who was born in Sweden in 1871 and died in 1958. They were long time residents of Pleasant Home Precinct, where Mr. Shostrom maintained a repair shop on his farm. He was precinct road supervisor for a number of years and long time member of the I.O.O.F. Polk Lodge. Their children were Anna, Delia (Mrs. O.L. Johnson) Carl, Hjalmar and Berniece. All are deceased except Berniece, now Mrs. Elner Ahlquist of Stromsburg. Mrs. Hjalmer Shostrom, a daughter-in-law lives at Stromsburg and her son Don lives at Polk. Another child, Mrs. Harry Christensen of Stromsburg is the pleasant KAWL (York Radio Station) "5 minutes of Stromsburg News" lady.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter E. Shostrom

Peter Erick Shostrom was born in Gestrickland Sweden in 1862. When six years of age he came to America with his parents and settled at Kewanee, Illinois in the year 1868. They lived there for 10 years, then moved west to Nebraska by train, coming to Silver Creek. Here they forded the Platte river and settled 5 miles west of Stromsburg where they homesteaded.

His wife was born in Sweden. Peter Shostrom and Sophie Adolfson were united in marriage December 20, 1886. Six children were born to this marriage, Dana, Henry, Willie, Robert, Mabel and Amelia.

They were faithful members of the Swede Plain Methodist Church.

On December 10, 1936 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, having lived 50 years on the same farm. Mr. Shostrom died in 1938 and Sophie passed away a few weeks later.

Willie Shostrom died in 1974, and Robert, of Polk, is the only living descendent.

There are a number of grandchildren in the Polk area: two sons of Amelia Flodman, Wayland, a farmer and Burdette, farmer and Polk County Commissioner.

Henry Shostrom's children are: Mrs. Lloyd Lind and Mrs. Lyle Widga.

Robert's children are: Mrs. Milan (Marlene) Hanquist, Polk, Darrel, Colorado and Mrs. Roger Merchant of Polk. Dana's daughter is Ruth Williams.

Dr. and Mrs. Frank B. Slusser

The Slussers came to Polk in 1911 and lived in south Polk. They had 2 sons, Harold and Donald who have married and moved to California. Dr. Slusser continued to practice in Polk until his retirement in 1950. Mrs. Slusser died in 1942. Daisy Slusser, a sister of Dr. Slusser lived with them until the Doctor's death in 1952.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Slusser were active in civic, church and school affairs. Mrs. Slusser was the former Mabel Fletcher and was an early pianist at the Methodist Church for many years. The Fletchers were also early Polk residents.

The Slusser's sons have returned to Polk for alumni banquets. Both reside out of state.

August Steelquist

August Steelquist was born in Perstop Skane, Sweden, in 1854. At the age of 27 he immigrated to the U.S.A., settling in Rockford, Illinois. Three years later he moved to Hamilton County, Nebraska. In 1882 he married Christena Wilhelmena Olsson. This union was of comparatively short duration as she passed from this life in 1890, results from an accident where the horses ran away and she was thrown from the buggy. Her husband was left with two small daughters, Hattie and Ellen. The two daughters were cared for by friends until he acquired a housekeeper.

In 1892 he remarried, to Carolina Person, who was born in Sweden and immigrated to the U.S. in 1892.

When she came from Sweden she brought with her a nephew, August Miller.

She assumed the responsibility of mother of his two daughters. To this union an infant daughter who died at birth and a son Carl were born.

Later they moved to the farm 2 miles west and a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Polk, which is still owned by Mrs. Carl Steelquist.

Grandmother Steelquist had her own spinning wheel and carded and spun the wool from the sheep they raised on the farm.

Their home was a Christian home and every Saturday night Grandpa would read from the Bible for their family worship.

Hattie, Ellen and Carl attended school at Frog Pond which was a mile south and a mile east of their home.

Hattie was married to Ed Lindquist and they settled on the farm south of Polk one mile, where their daughter Myrtle and husband now live and own the farm. A son Morris resides in Central City, Nebraska, another son Mervin lives in Omaha. Myrtle and her husband Vergil Bush have a daughter Cheryl, who is married to Dennis VanHousen and lives on a farm southwest of Polk. They have three sons, Craig, Paul and Dale.

Ellen was married to Will Kroger and they lived one mile west and a half mile north of Polk most of their married life. They had four children. One boy died in infancy. Lloyd passed away at the age of 50. He was married to Ruth Benson Kroger and they had two children, Jeanelle and Max. Lelah is married to Neil McNaught and live in Polk. They have two sons, Waldon and Bill and four grandchildren.

Waldon, married to Jo Ann Lind McNaught live in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is Varsity Basketball Coach at Southeast High School. They have a daughter Linda and two sons, Tom and Patrick.

Bill lives in York and is the Pro at the York Country Club. He has a daughter, Jill.

Maxine is married to Frank Nelson and they reside in Loveland, Colorado. They have two sons and two grandchildren, Douglas and Bob, and both live in Colorado.

Carl Steelquist was married to Edith Lindahl and resided in Lincoln. Carl passed away in 1966. They had four children. Phyllis is married to John Crites and they live in Columbus, Ohio and have two children and one grandchild. Hilton died in the service during World War II in 1943. Two sons Lin Dahl and Clark Allen died at a very young age.

The Steelquist family are all deceased and buried in the Hordville Cemetery in Hordville, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Stevens

Mr. and Mrs. Arlo A. Stevens live on a farm west of Polk. Arlo, youngest son of William and Florence Stevens and Mary Genelle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Coover were married in 1941. They have five children: Gaylerd, who lives in Polk and farms with his father, Karen, Recreation Director in Denver, Colo., Gary, who works with Omaha Mutual at Omaha, Gale, a 1974 Polk High graduate and Kendell Clyde (deceased). Their two grandchildren are William Frederick and Arlo Donald, sons of Gaylerd and Mary Stevens.

Genelle was a former S.S. teacher and Youth worker in the Methodist Church. She was president of the W.S.C.S., a member of Executive committee and on the church board for many years. Arlo is a grain and livestock farmer and served on the school board of Dist. 65 of Hamilton County for many years. He was a trustee of Polk Methodist Church and a board member of the Polk Cemetery.

Recently they have added a small herd of buffalo to their livestock farming.

By the time a man realizes what a drip he has been it is often too late to fix the faucet.

Church members are like automobiles: They start missing before they quit.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde A. Stevens

Clyde A. Stevens was a Polk rural mail carrier for seventeen years. Graduating from Polk High School in 1917, he received his appointment a year later and continued carrying mail until his death at the age of 35 years in July, 1935. He was married to Elsie Ang, formerly of Saronville, Ne. who passed away in 1974. They had two sons, Robert of Lincoln and Gerald of Polk who also became a mail carrier. They had ten grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Stevens

Paul and Patricia Stevens live on his parents' (Mr. and Mrs. William Stevens) home place 1½ miles northeast of Polk which they now own. Patricia is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Orendorff. They have two daughters, Shirley Hendricks of Pocatello, Idaho, and Sharon Benson of Kearney, Nebr. and ten grandchildren.

Paul farms and raises livestock. He was a former president of the Polk Co-Op Elevator, school board member of District 65 and Polk Cemetery Board officer. Both are Polk Methodist Church members and active in community affairs.

Theodore Stevens Family

The year 1973 marks 100 years since Theodore Stevens came to Pleasant Home Precinct with his parents Jamier and Julia Stevens. Theodore was an infant born in Jackson County, Iowa in 1872. His parents were warned that this baby may be buried on the way thinking he could never survive this hard journey. They came by wagon and settled in a sod house built by father Stevens 2 miles north and 1 east of where Polk is now located. Here "Thede" grew to manhood and on December 12, 1899 was united in marriage to Mabel Florence Putman, daughter of Horace and Catherine Putman, who were pioneers coming from Illinois, and homesteading 1 mile south and 3 east of the Jamier Stevens home. Theodore and Mabel settled on a farm 1 mile south and one half east of the Stevens home. Their first home was on the south side of the road and was later replaced with a new house on the north side (a son, Horace and family reside here presently where they have built a new home).

Eleven children were born to this couple: Wayne of

Ewing, Nebraska, Archie, deceased, Julia (Sundberg) deceased, Berniece (Miller) deceased, Earl, Glen and Horace of Polk, Nebraska, Iva (Burchfield) and Vera (Hammond) of Rockford, Illinois, Raymond of Dallas, Texas, and Gwendolyn (Lindburg) of Polk, Nebraska.

Theodore and Mabel Stevens remained on this same farm where they were active members of the Polk Methodist Church, school and civic affairs. They retired and moved to their home in Polk in 1946. Mr. Stevens passed away June 26, 1952. Mrs. Stevens passed away at the age of 90 years on November 11, 1971.

Mr. and Mrs. Jamier Edmund Stevens

Jamier Edmund Stevens, who came in 1873 in a covered wagon to Polk County, brought small seeds and trees to be planted on the barren prairie.

He shared some of his precious trees with the new little town of Stromsburg and they were planted in the town park. With his wife, the former Julia Etta Sealey, they had come from LaMotte, Iowa as they had heard of the good soil and farming possibilities, and as a Civil War Veteran he was entitled to Homestead Rights.

Jamier Edmund was the father of William, Thede, Lillian, and Ed Stevens and Lula Stevens McClure. He had enlisted in the Civil War at age 18, as a substitute for he was determined to join the Army after his older brother Jonas was killed in 1862 and his father Artimus Stevens had died in 1863 at the siege of Vicksburg. He brought with him to Nebraska the rifle musket he had been given at his honorable discharge.

After the filing fee of $16 was paid in June of 1873, the family had only $7 left for supplies. Determined to live on the 160 acres for at least five years, as the law required to "claim" the land, a primitive soddy was constructed, with brush and swale grass for the roof. Seven years later a second soddy with board roof and floors was built. This soddy even had a pole from the gable so the children could have a swing. Peach seeds, brought also from Iowa were planted. The land remained in the Stevens family for over 75 years. They bought their supplies at Stromsburg and were served by the Stromsburg rural mail route for over 25 years.

It was difficult to clear much sod land, so the patches of sod corn planting were small. Cornmeal mush and milk and cornbread, nicknamed Johnny Cake, often made up a meal for the early settlers. It was a treat to catch prairie chicken or an antelope for meat.

William Stevens married Florence Peterson, a cousin of the Wesley Wilson family of Stromsburg. His wife was a school teacher and attended Bryant Normal School at Stromsburg.

Thede Stevens married Mable Putman, Edmund Jr. married Signe Norman of Stromsburg, Lula married Joseph McClure, who had attended Stromsburg Bryant Normal School and was also an early day school teacher of Polk County.

Twenty two direct descendants of the Will and Thede Stevens live in the Polk area.

In 1880, Mr. Stevens passed away and his faithful wife, only 35 years of age, was left to care for the home and family of four children. Mrs. Stevens died in 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Jamier Edmund "Ed" Stevens II

Jamier Edmund Stevens II, was born in 1880 on a farm north of Polk. He was the son of Jamier and Julia Stevens. He married Signe Norman in 1904, who was a school teacher before her marriage. Mr. Stevens had a Livery Barn at Polk and was a Polk rural mail carrier for 10 years. Later he moved to Lodgepole, Nebraska, where he engaged in farming until his death in 1948. Mrs. Stevens died in 1963. They have one daughter, Gertrude (Mrs. Walter Brestel) of Dalton, Nebraska and three sons, Rodney of Shelton, Jamier Edmund III of La Mirada, California and Stanley of Lodgepole, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Stevens

William A. Stevens, eldest son of Jamier and Julia Stevens was born in Iowa in 1870 and came to the Polk area in a covered wagon with his parents at the age of three. He died in 1952 at age 82.

Here he grew to manhood and married Florence Peterson, daughter of Alfred and Matilda Peterson. His bride was born in Iowa, graduated from Bryant Normal School in Stromsburg, taught school in Iowa and at Districts 45 and 44 in the Polk area before their marriage in 1894.

They lived on a farm 1½ miles north of Polk now owned by their son Paul and wife.

Mr. Stevens was a member of the school board of Polk School District for 20 years, 12 as president, and director of Polk Cemetery for 40 years. He was one of Polk County's first Farm Bureau members and also belonged to Farmers Union. His wife was an early Farm Bureau secretary. His parents were charter members of the Polk Methodist Church. He served as a church trustee many years.

Their seven children live in the Polk area: Beulah, who married Oscar Gustafson (deceased) has two sons: Roger and Richard; Blanche married David Sundberg (deceased); Mildred married Irvin Anderson; Grayce married Lloyd Hahn and they had 2 daughters, Marilyn and Natalie. After Lloyd's death, Grayce married Lieutenant Governor Dwight Burney; Paul is married to Patricia Orendorff and their 2 children are Shirley and Sharon. Hazel married Glenn Hill and they also have 2 children, Sheralee and Sondra. Arlo married Genelle Coover and their five children are Kendell Clyde (deceased), Gaylerd, Karen, Gary and Gale. Clyde (deceased) has two sons Robert of Lincoln and Gerald of Polk. Bertha, Julia & baby are deceased.

The Paul Stevens farm has been in the family over 75

years. The original Stevens homestead is 2½ miles north of Polk. It was in the Stevens family about 70 years.

Mr. & Mrs. John Stohl

At age 17, John Stohl immigrated from Sweden. His sister, Hulda (Mrs. John Gestrine), came with him.

Mr. Stohl rented the Shostrom farm just east of the Nettie Carlson land. Only an irrigation well remains there now.

One by one others of the Stohl family came to America, their passage paid by U.S. relatives. In 1911, John sent for his parents, Claus Johann Stal and wife Beate nee Jakobsdotter and youngest brother Gunnar.

On September 5, 1906, John Stohl and sister Helga accompanied their neighbors C.O. Carlson and sister Elin, who had also come from Sweden, to the Nebraska State Fair. The young men married each other's sisters' that day. (A family joke was that the men got tired of their sister's cooking.)

John Stohl's had 4 children: Ralph, who at age 2 drowned in a water tank, Robert of Stromsburg, Minnie (Mrs. Al Yungdahl) of Osceola, Walter, north of Polk on the former John Stohl farm. A granddaughter, Genon Stohl Klingsborn (daughter of Robert) lives near Polk.

The family recalls Mrs. John Stohl in early days making 20 to 30 lbs. of butter each week, hitching up a team of horses, and taking it to Stromsburg to sell to regular customers.

Most of the original Stohl family is buried in Swede Plain and Polk cemeteries.

Gunnar and wife Esther Gustafson Stohl reside in Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. James LeRoy Stouffer

Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Stouffer and family lived in the Arborville community until 1919 when they moved to Polk. Mr. Stouffer later became an official in the Citizen's State Bank. Mrs. Stouffer was the former Esther Fletcher. Their five children were Margaret, Gladys, Rachel, Everett, and Ruth. Mrs. Stouffer was active in the youth dept. of the Baptist Church and all were members of that church.

Rachel (Mrs. Walter Grobe) lives in York.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Strand

The Oscar Strand family came to Polk in 1916. The family lived in the house now owned by Don Miller. Mr. Strand died at age 81.

Born in Sweden, he came to America at age sixteen. He married Susanna Freid in 1900. Seven sons were born to them, four deceased. Paul and Hilding live at Polk, Merrill at York.

While at Polk, he and his sons operated Strand Lumber Company.

Mayor for 12 years, he was a city council member 17 years, and served on the school board 12 years. He was active in the Methodist Church.

His nephew Dr. Carl Olson of Colorado preached his funeral service, August 6, 1946.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Strand

Paul Strand began his 44 years in the lumber business in Polk when he started working for his father Oscar Strand in 1919 for the Strand Lumber Co. In 1941 Paul and three of his brothers became owners of the lumber yard. Paul served as manager of the business until 1963 when he retired and the lumber yard was sold. When Paul retired the Strands built a new home in Polk.

Paul married Josephine Berggren. They have lived in Polk all of their married life. Paul's favorite sport is football. Paul and Josephine are active members of the United Methodist Church in Polk.

Josephine has served on the local school board, enjoys her membership in the Polk Woman's Club, Home Society and Lodge and is presently serving as local chairperson of the Red Cross Bloodmobile Program.

Their daughter Carolyn married Rev. Gary Bruening who is presently serving in the United Methodist Church in Mankato, Minnesota. Carlyn, a college graduate, is presently teaching in the Mankato school system. The Bruenings have two sons, Matthew and Joseph. Carlyn and family and her folks enjoy much of their vacation time together.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stromberg

Albert and Hildur (nee Samuelson) Stromberg lived on farms near Polk for over 25 years before Mrs. Stromberg's death in 1925. They were the parents of Violet (Mrs. Norris Anderson), Claude and Clyde and Evelyn (Mrs. Arthur Miller), all of Clarks, Albert died in 1947. Paul Anderson of the Polk area is a grandson.

The Charles Stromberg Family

Charles Stromberg, born in Sweden in 1846, came to Polk County in 1883, settling on a farm north of Polk. He was married to Tilda Bartelson, who passed away leaving two small children, Albert and Selma. Later he married Mary Christina Johnson and they were the parents of twelve children. They retired at Stromsburg, Nebraska, where they celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 1928. They had 49 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Mr. Stromberg died in 1930 and Mrs. Stromberg in 1935.

The family is pictured above. Back Row, Jennie (Mrs. Ed Coover), Arthur, Ida (Mrs. Ray Sealey), Alma

(Mrs. Robert Oliver), Oscar, Julia (Mrs. Roy Miller). Second Row, Bernard, Mrs. Charles Stromberg, Alice (Mrs. Karl Karlson) with Ruth (Mrs. Arthur Walline) in front of her. Ossian "Pete," Mr. Charles Stromberg, Lillian (Mrs. Andrew Andreson) beside the father and Esther (Mrs. Emil S.F. Johnson) beside her.

Six grandchildren live in the Polk Community; Mrs. Arlo Stevens, Paul Coover, Richard Sealey Sr., Mrs. Norris Anderson, Rolland and Lloyd Stromberg and several great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Stromberg

Lloyd Stromberg was born on a farm south of Polk, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Stromberg, August 28, 1910. He graduated from Polk High School in 1929.

In 1934 Stromberg's IGA Grocery and Locker started when Lloyd took over the meat market formerly operated by David Carlson.

On November 15, 1941, Lloyd was married to Miss Eleanor Davenport of Aurora and together for 32 years until February 18, 1974 they shared in the operation of the grocery store and locker plant.

Lloyd joined the Polk Methodist Church at an early age and since that time has served on the Official Board and on other committees in the Church.

Lloyd served 20 years on the Town Board and four of those years he was the Mayor of Polk. Eleanor has served as Methodist Young Adult Fellowship president, Cradle Roll supt. and is active in church and ladies organizations. She also is active in Polk Women's Club.

Lloyd and Eleanor Stromberg have two sons, Gary L. Stromberg of Anchorage, Alaska and Arlan L. Stromberg of Lincoln, Nebraska. The Stromberg's have two granddaughters.

Lloyd was a member of the Polk Commercial Club for many years and served as Club president. Since that time he has become a charter member of the Polk Community Club, is a member of the Masonic Lodge, AM & FM and is a member of the Willanna Chapter of the Eastern Star No. 321.

Lloyd sold his Grocery and locker Business on February 18, 1974.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Stromberg

Oscar Stromberg, Polk farmer and livestock raiser, and at one time associated with his son Lloyd in management of the Stromberg Market in Polk.

Frank Oscar Stromberg was the eldest son of Charles and Mary Stromberg. The Stromberg family came from Varna, Illinois and homesteaded on a farm north of Polk.

Oscar was united in marriage to Anna Josephine Sundberg and to this union seven sons and two daughters were born. One son preceded his father in death and six months later the wife and mother was taken by death.

Oscar's father was born in Sweden and came to America three days after President Lincoln died. His first wife died leaving him with two children and then he remarried and to this union 12 children were born. Oscar was one of the twelve.

Oscar's wife was a sister to Albert and Oscar Sundberg also Mrs. Hannah Rodine and Mrs. Emma Johnson.

Their children are: Robert, Washington, D.C.; Hazel (Mrs. D.C.) Powell of Eugene, Washington; Marvin of Dallas, Texas; Eulalia (Mrs. Erwin) Buckholz of San Francisco; Merle, Wahoo; Chas Leonard, Lindoln, and Lloyd and Rolland of Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Stromberg

Rolland Stromberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Stromberg and Elaine Peterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Peterson were married in 1952. They have 2 children, David and JoElla.

Elaine was a former play director and met Rolland when presenting a play at Polk. She is president of the Polk U.M. Women and past president of the American Legion Auxiliary. Rolland is a farmer and is on the Polk Cemetery Board and was Commander of the American Legion for 2 terms. They are Methodist Church Board members and active in civic and community affairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stunkel

Miss Antzie Monson and William Stunkel were married February 23, 1903. They lived on a farm near Hordville, their first home a sod house. The family moved to Polk in 1946.

Two daughters reside here, Mrs. John Kruse and Miss Edna. A brother Raymond farms near Hordville and Louis resides in Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. David E. Sundberg

David Sundberg, son of David and Hannah Sundberg and Blanche Stevens, daughter of William and Florence Stevens both grew up in the vicinity north of Polk. They were married at Geneva, Nebraska on Valentines Day, 1945, and began housekeeping northeast of Polk, later moving to their farm near Stromsburg. They were faithful members of the Stromsburg Evangelical Free Church. Blanche was a former Sunday School teacher, telephone operator, and rural school teacher. David was a member of the School Board in District 6, and was a Republican Precinct Committeeman for 25 years.

David died in 1967. Blanche now lives in Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Sundberg

Andrew J. Sundberg and Emma Miller were married December 12, 1898. Mrs. Sundberg was the daughter of Henry and Matilda Miller who homesteaded on a farm 1 mile west of Polk. Their children were Raymond, Harvey and Lawrence. Mr. Sundberg passed away in 1914 and Mrs. Sundberg later married Albert J. Nelson. They were members of Polk Baptist Church. Raymond and his wife reside in Polk, Harvey died in 1920 and Lawrence lives in Rockford, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sundberg

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sundberg were married in Sweden, May 6th, 1880, and came to America the same year. They settled on a farm near Polk.

They had nine children, five daughters and four sons, Emma Johnson of Central City, Hannah Rodine and Oscar Sundberg of Polk, Esther Hedeen of Santa Cruz, California, Nathan of Portland, Oregon. Deceased are Henry Sundberg, Sheridan, Oregon; Ellen Sandell, Shafer, California; Albert Sundberg and Jose Stromberg of Polk. The Sundbergs had 23 grandchildren.

Henry Sundberg started the Polk Hardware Store. Sons Albert and Oscar joined him and the store still does business at Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Sundberg

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Sundberg plan to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary in October of 1974.

Oscar was born near Polk and lived there all his life except the 16 months he served in World War I and 6 months in Portland, Ore.

Violet came to Polk in the spring of 1923 and was married to Oscar in the fall of 1924.

They have both been active in Church and Civic affairs and are the parents of 3 children: Donna Bauer of Sutton, James of San Antonio, Texas, and Janice Saylor of Polk. They have 9 grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thesing

Richard Thesing, pioneer Polk Implement dealer and Hulda Runquist, daughter of August and Anna Runquist were married in 1914. They established their home in Polk and lived here the rest of their lives. Mrs. Runquist grew up on a farm 3½ miles north of Polk.

Mr. and Mrs. Thesing were fatally injured in a car accident at an intersection at Aurora as they were starting out on a vacation.

Eyes are more reliable witnesses than ears.

Rev. and Mrs. G.W. Tinker

Rev. George W. Tinker was born in New York in 1865 and died here in 1927. He was an early Free Methodist minister. He was married to Delaura Killey in 1884. Their children were Lucy (McClure), Ruth (Green) now Mrs. Clifford Branting, and son Beryl. They had 14 grandchildren. Later he married Mrs. Ellen Ball.

After their retirement in Polk they ran a popcorn wagon and sold popcorn on Polk's open nights - Wednesday and Saturdays and at the County Fairs.

Mr. & Mrs. A.O. Talbot

A.O. and Margaret Burrows Talbot lived in Mercer County, near Aledo, Illinois a few years prior to their coming to Polk County, Nebraska, in 1889. Mr. Talbot was born in Ireland. Margaret Burrows' ancestors were natives of Scotland.

The trip to Nebraska was made by covered wagon. Upon arriving in Polk County, the Talbots found a place near District #26 School close to Polk and settled there.

Mr. Talbot engaged in farming and also raised stock, building up a fine herd of dairy cattle, and marketed a large number of hogs as the years went by.

Besides Charles and Lena other children born to the Talbots were George, Maude, Kenneth, Freeman, Lula, Ralph, and Merton.

Merton passed away when a young boy. All the others except Ralph are now deceased. He makes his home in California (1973).

Charles served in the United States Army during the Phillipine War, and Ralph saw active Duty in World War I. The Talbot farmstead was one of the pleasant and attractive homes, being well planted to trees with a fine apple orchard, fenced in yard and beautiful lawn. Ice cream socials were often held here in summer time, and visitors, as well as the local young people found this home a place for many enjoyable gatherings.

Lena married Will Green and her daughter Myrtle married Harold Bedient of Arborville. Children Owen and Fred Bedient and Mrs. Gerald Stevens live in the Polk community.

Mr. and Mrs. Adel Widga

Gust Adel Widga born in 1846, came with his parents to America when he was 24 years old. They lived at Galesburg and Kewanee, Illinois before moving in 1873 to Polk County.

Adel, as he was better known to everyone, lived on a farm 1 mile east of the present Swede Plain Church.

Adel was married to Anna Peterson who was born April 13, 1850.

Two children were born to this union, namely one daughter Edna who died at age eight and one son Walter born in 1888. Walter was married to Mabel Anderson in 1912.

Walter and his wife farmed the home place after his father and mother retired and moved to Polk. Adel passed away in 1927 and Mrs. Widga in 1935.

Three children were born to Walter and Mabel Widga, namely Gerald and Jerome and one daughter Mary Ann (Mrs. Les Roberts) of Millard, Nebraska.

Walter died in 1955. Mrs. Widga and their 2 sons still remained on the same farm. Mrs. Widga died in 1973. Gerald and Jerome (of the 3rd generation) own and farm their grandparents' pioneer land.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Widga

Charles Widga, Born in 1854 in Ostergotland, Sweden came to America with his parents in 1870. In 1873 they moved to Polk County and lived 6½ miles west of Stromsburg.

Charles was married December 20, 1888 to Anna Nilson who was born June 16, 1866 in Sweden.

They moved to a farm 1 mile east and ½ south of the present Swede Plain Church.

Six daughters and two sons were born to them; Richard and Melcher, Lillie (Mrs. Harold Beckman, Sr.), Mildred (Mrs. George Cotter), Ruth (Mrs. Harold Hansen), Sigrid (Mrs. Lee Scneder), Winnie (Mrs. Sig Anderson), Irene (Mrs. George Hanchette).

Mr. and Mrs. Widga were members of the Swede Plain Church.

They lived on this place for 27 years until 1915 when they retired and moved to Stromsburg and built a new home.

A son Richard and wife farmed this place for several years.

Charles passed away in 1922 and is buried at Stromsburg Cemetery. Mrs. Widga passed away in 1947 at San Pedro, California, and is buried there.

Mrs. Richard Widga lives at Polk, as does her son Donavin and family. A daughter Glennis lives in Omaha.

*** Sticking your nose into other people's business is the surest way to come face to face with trouble.

*** When a man is in earnest and knows what he is about, his work is more than half done.

*** You can't build a reputation on what you intended to do.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Widga

The Lloyd Widga family live on a farm that in 1973 received the AkSarBen Award for being in the same family 100 years or more.

Lloyd and Helga Johnson were married in 1934, and have lived on the farm 32 years. Lloyd's parents, the Peter Widgas lived there 39 years.

Lloyd is a busy irrigation and livestock farmer, has served 4 years on Polk Co-Op Elevator Board, active in the Swede Plain Church, and is treasurer of the Swede Plain Cemetery Board.

Helga also is active in church affairs and has been Sunday School treasurer over 20 years. In 1973 she compiled a geneology of the Widga family and had it printed. She has been instrumental in compiling a book about the Donelson families.

Their children are Verland and Donald, of Polk, who farm nearby, and Dennis of Des Moines, Iowa. They have six grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Widga

Four generations of the Peter Widga's have lived on Sec. 2, twp 13, Range 4 since 1873, the present one being the Lloyd Widga family.

Peter Magnus Widga was born in Sweden in 1851 and came to America with his parents in 1870. They stopped at Galesburg and Kewanee, Illinois three years. Then in 1873 they moved to Polk County. Pete took a homestead one mile east and ¼ north of the present Swede Plain Church.

On January 23rd 1879 Peter was married to Helen Sara Anstrom, who had come to America from Sweden in the fall of 1876.

A wood structure house and other buildings were built on this homestead.

Eight children were born to this union, namely Edward, Casper, C.A., Ludwig, Frank, Magnhild, Fredolph and Alvena. All are deceasedbut Magnhildof Lincoln and Alvena, Mrs. Lawrence James of York.. Peter and his wife joined the Swede Plain Church in 1888.

They lived on this place for twenty two years. In the spring of 1901 they bought a farm 2½ miles west of Stromsburg. In 1904 they retired and moved to Stromsburg.

A son Edward along with his brother Casper farmed the homestead place for a couple of years together, until Edward was married in 1903. He and his wife and family lived here until the spring of 1942 when they retired and moved to Polk. Edward passed away in 1954 and Mrs. Widga in 1964.

A grandson, Lloyd Widga, now owns and lives on this place. With the help of his sons Donald and Verland who are of the fourth generation, he tills the soil.

All are members of the Swede Plain Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Clair Willits

Clair Willits, son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Willits was born in Polk County in 1884. He grew to adulthood in this area, dying in 1969.

His family history book (in H. Willits write-up) tells interesting pioneer memories.

Mr. Willits married Eva Shank of Silver Creek area. Both are buried at Polk Cemetery.

A son Ralph resides on the family homestead north of Polk. In 1972, Mr. and Mrs. Willits received the Pioneer Family Award, for a family continuously living on the farm 100 years.

Their children are: Ralph of Clarks, Louis of Falls City, Mrs. Reynold Peterson of Osceola, Mrs. Ray Johnson of Stromsburg, Mrs. Walter Jones of Osceola, Mrs. Billie Williams of Yutan, and Beryl Willits of Greeley, Colorado.

Mr. & Mrs. Horace Willits

When the Homestead Act was passed by Congress, Horace Willits, as a soldier in the United States Army during the Civil War, was eligible to have 160 acres in Nebraska.

On August 12, 1872, he took his team and wagon and started for Nebraska in search of a new home. He arrived at his brother, Charley Willits' homestead, near Benedict, Nebraska, 14 days later. After looking over homestead sites in Polk and York Counties, he decided on one northeast of Polk. With the help of his brother Charley, they built a sod house on the site. Then he returned to his family in Illinois.

In the spring of 1874, Horace Willits moved with his family, his wife, and two sons and a daughter on to the

homestead in Nebraska.

In 1876 the grasshoppers came in great swarms, enough to darken the sunlight, and ate every bit of vegetation. Any clothing outside the house was destroyed by them.

Horace and Mary Willits and children then went back to Illinois to work. They made enough money to come back to the homestead and start all over again.

Mrs. Willits saw a herd of buffalo going across their farm soon after they settled on the homestead. Some Indians called at the sod house door at different times and asked for flour or cornmeal when she was alone, but made no effort to come inside or to bother anyone.

Horace Willits drove to Seward, Nebraska with team and wagon for lumber to curb a well, which men came to drill. They used a large auger about 12 inches in diameter and four feet long.

Horace Willits sacked wheat and loaded it in his waggon and drove to his brothers place in York County. He spent the night there and the next day drove to Crete, Nebraska to a water-powered flour mill, where he exchanged his wheat for flour.

Then later drought hit hard. They had to go back east the second time to earn some money to get started again. He rented the sod house to Dana Little who had just married Anna Johnson. They didn't have a house built yet.

Horace expected to be gone one year, but he had work all fall and winter and earned enough money to come back to Nebraska in the spring. When he got there, his house was rented to Little so he got lumber from Seward, Nebraska and built one room 14 by 16 feet, so that they would now have a place to live. For several years thereafter, they lived in the frame house in the summer and the sod house in the winter. The sod house was much warmer. In a few years they built another room on to the first one. It was lathed and plastered. Alexander Shank did the carpentering and mason work. Later they built three more rooms to the first two.

In the 1870's Mr. Willits signed a 99 year lease for the High Prairie school house site.

In 1923 a new school was built 40 by 48. It was not quite completed by September so the first High School class started at the home of Clair Willits. Grade School was continued until District 42 was consolidated with the town schools. The school building was sold at auction to the Immanuel Lutheran Church southwest of Polk, and was moved there and used for a school building.

Horace Willits was Director of the school district for many years.

In 1916 a new house was built on the homestead; and on November 22, 1916, Horace and Mary celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. A few years later they put an electric light plant in the basement, which was run by a gasoline engine. They also had water in the house fed from an elevated tank by a new well and windmill. They enjoyed twelve years in their new home and were very happy until Horace's death in 1928. Mary died in 1939. Both are buried in the Polk Cemetery.

Children are natural mimics - they act like their parents in spite of every attempt to teach them good manners.

Mr. & Mrs. Grant Willits

William Grant Willits, oldest son of Horace and Mary Willits, was born in 1869 in Illinois, and lived to be 98 years of age. In the spring of 1874, Grant's parents moved to the homestead near High Prairie, in Polk County, Nebraska. It was in this county where Grant lived most of his life. He attended school in the sod school house and in the first frame building at High Prairie. He was a student at Bryant Normal University at Stromsburg for two terms; then taught several years at Swede Home School and at High Prairie School.

He spent some time as a precinct assessor. He took an active part in civic affairs and had a vital interest in the affairs of government and of history.

In 1895 Grant went to Florence, Colorado where he took a job with a gold refining and milling company for three years. He spent a year farming at Wheatland, Wyoming, then he farmed north of Polk until his retirement, when he and Mildred moved to Polk.

He was united in marriage to Mildred Olive Johnson (daughter of N.G. Johnson) June 26, 1918. Mildred was born June 17, 1891 in the Johnson farm home six miles north of Polk and three-fourths mile east. Three children were born: Robert who lives 5 miles north of Polk on Mr. Willits farm, Dale of Colorado Springs, Colorado and Rena May (Mrs. Eldon Lawson) of Peoria, Arizona. Grant and Mildred were both members of the First Baptist Church at Polk where Mildred still participates actively.

Grant recalls going with his father, Horace Willits, to the Platte River to gather young cedars. These trees were transplanted on the homestead to make a windbreak. One of those trees planted when Grant was ten years old in 1879 grew until 1950 when strong winds uprooted it. Grant went out to the homestead where his brother Clair was still living, and brought a trunk into Polk. Grant fashioned several Dutch windmills from the lumber. He also made several rough-hewn boards which his son, Dale, made into a beautiful coffee table for Rena May.

Grant passed away at his home in Polk, December 16, 1967 at the age of 98 years and five months. He is buried in the Polk Cemetery.

Dad made up this poem as he sat under the apple tree in the backyard at Polk, resting from his work in the garden. The garden was his pride. He was no longer able to read because of poor vision, so he made up these verses, kept them in his mind, then dictated them to me his last summer. He was 98 that summer, and really he recited it first and didn't have the last verse, and said it was not complete. The last day, before I returned to Phoenix, he called Rena May over and said he had made the concluding verse.

A GARDEN MELODY
by
"Old Timer" Grant Willits, who died at age 98

In the shade of the old apple tree,
I'm sitting here taking my ease.

And as I look round, no weeds can be found--
In the cabbage or carrots or peas.

The old garden is pleasant to view.
For the seeds that I've planted all grew.
And we've learned long ago that we reap what we sow--
For we're sure that God's promise is true.

The rich harvest will come bye and bye.
We'll have berries and pickles and pie.
If you would like some, you're invited to come--
"Twill be mighty good eating, thinks I!

But the old garden will soon pass away
When the chill wind starts to blow,
And the vines that have borne and the tall sweet corn--
Will rest 'neath a mantle of snow.

O, how like the old garden are we--
A few years with our dear ones we love,
Then we'll hear the glad call that God will give to us all
To rest in His mansions above.

Of the Willits fourth generation three remain in Polk County. Sharon is married to Rodney Johnson and they reside one-half mile west of Polk. Their two children Jodi and Charles, constitute fifth generation Polk County residents.

Allen and Pamela still reside at home with their parents Robert and Alice Willits.

John Wilson - son Wesley - grandson James

The grandfather of James Wilson of Polk came from Sweden in 1848. He was a piano maker by trade. He died in 1901.

The family located at Stromsburg and he purchased the controlling interest of the First National Bank. He became president and his sons, J. Wesley and Victor were officers. Nathan, another son, joined the business group and for nearly 25 years, the Wilsons were active business men in Stromsburg. J. Wesley served as the president eight years and also was a partner in a Merchandise Store.

In 1906, after helping get the Union Pacific railroad through the Polk area, the City Improvement Company was organized, and the men located, plotted and sold the townsites at Polk and Hordville (J. Wesley Wilson, brother-in-law Calmar McCune and brothers Nathan and Victor).

The syndicate organized the First National Bank of Polk and the Farmers State Bank of Hordville and became officers of the banks.

James Wilson is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wesley Wilson. He operates the Wilson Seed Farms of Polk with his wife Alice (story elsewhere).

Before Jim and Alice Wilson retired to Nebraska, their three children were already grown, through college and established in careers of their own. Their son, David, is professor of physical chemistry at Vanderbilt University, and lives with his wife and five children in Nashville, Tennessee. Steven, who has four sons, is a nature photographer for Audubon, National Geographic, etc. He lives at Old Tin Mine Lake, Washington. Molly is a biologist at Nueva Day School and Learning Center, working out better methods of teaching science to elementary school children. Her husband, Bruce Lusignan, is a professor in systems engineering at Stanford University. They have three daughters. In their widely differing fields, all three Wilson children are deeply involved in environmental concerns, carrying out the family tradition.

Love is...a tender understanding, a warm liking, affection, an attachment. Love is a feeling shared between friends, husbands and wives, boys and girls, fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, grandchildren and grandparents.

Love is a nebulous quality, a strong emotion. Although present in most of our lives, it is actually hard to define. For years, psychiatrists, physicians, poets and just people have attempted to express their feelings of love through the written and spoken word. It is an individual and a personal feeling. It may grow through the years or strike instantly. But love is always warm and wonderful.

Polk has had one player on the University of Nebraska football squad, Ernest Kroger, in 1908, shown here. He later moved to Grand Island - became a District Judge. He received a season pass to home games all his life.

Search For Men - Written in 1911 by M. F. Smith

Long we've looked for a breed of men, who feel the right
and know just when to frown the "no", or smile the "yes"
and lead the life that God would bless.

We find good men in the open mart, But a piece of coin
brings a change of heart,
Their crafty poise is fair to see, but their sins unseen
to you and me.

We find good men on election day, - With naught to do,
but much to say,
Which man is right? Which man is wrong? On thought
they are short, - On talk they're long,

We need more men of humble thought with work performed and service sought,
The path that leads to right from wrong, - Brings a life
of joy and hope and song.

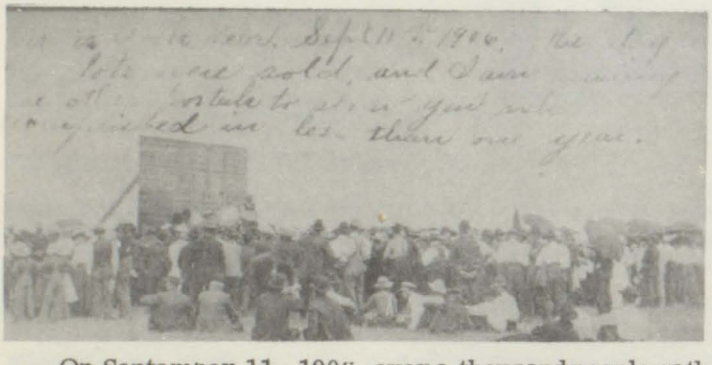
Polk's Yesterdays

HISTORY OF POLK, NEBRASKA

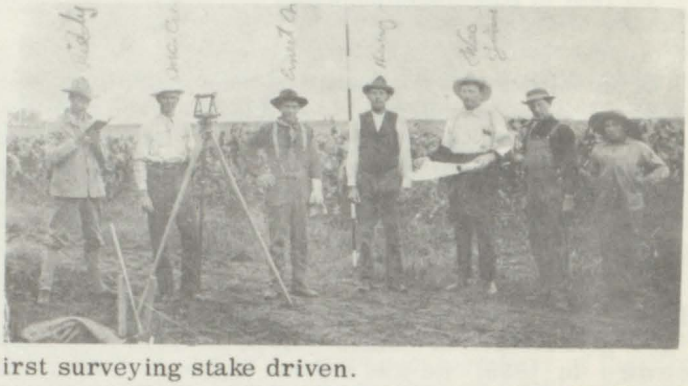
Polk, founded in 1906, is Polk County's youngest town. The name, Polk, was suggested by the U.P. Railroad Company from the County, which in turn was named from U.S. President James K. Polk. It is located in the extreme southwest corner of the county on Highway 66 in West Pleasant Home Precinct.

Nathan Wilson, C.C. McCune, Victor E. Wilson, O.T. Reedy. In auto -Auctioneer, Eva McCune Reedy, Margaret McCune Wilson, Mrs. Calmer McCune, J.W. Wilson, James C. Wilson and Alec Swanson.

A City Improvement Company was formed in 1906 with J. Wesley Wilson, Nathan Wilson, Victor E. Wilson and Calmer C. McCune as members. Plots of land were purchased from Henry Stunkel and Carl Nierman. Much credit is given J. Wesley Wilson, father of James C. Wilson at Polk for the excellent job of surveying and laying out of lots, streets, parks and parking space. A boulevard was planned down Main Street with a park at either end. Streets were given names of Nebraska trees and also Indian names.



On September 11, 1906, over a thousand people gathered in the wheat stubble land to bid at a public sale for building lots. Herman Brauer, F.L. Horn and Henry Sundberg were among the first buyers. Lots were sold to residents and not to speculators. Stores and houses were moved from Arborville and from Stark, a small settlement west of Polk. Material for the first buildings came from the neighboring towns of Stromsburg, Bradshaw or Central City. Sand and gravel for concrete sidewalks were hauled by team and wagon from the Platte River. The first new building erected on Main Street was the Oscar Rystrom Implement building on the north edge. The first eating place in Polk was a shack of boards with a canvas roof over it, which Frank Fruide had erected to feed the many construction workers. Many business men lived with their families in the back of their stores until new homes could be built.



First surveying stake driven.

Looking South on Main Street

It is almost impossible to imagine how a small town could grow in it's first two years. Buildings being brought to Polk were a common sight and farmers would help in their spare time. This was accomplished without heavy moving equipment or gravel roads. Then, as now, there was a wonderful feeling of cooperation and helpfulness. This small village boomed during 1906 and 1907. When the railroad opened for business on March 1, 1907 there were two freights and four passenger trains daily. J.E. McDaniel was the first railroad agent.

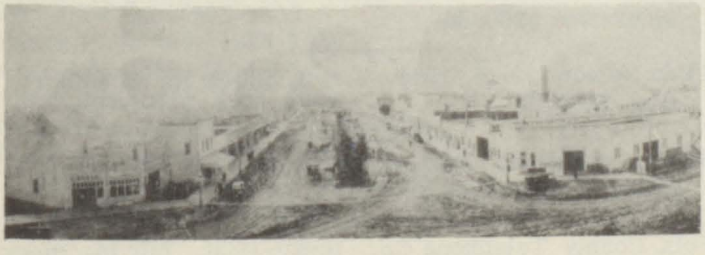
Seven months after the sale of the first lots, the April 25th, 1907 issue of the Polk Progress listed these ads — Thoren & Sundberg advertised stoves and hardware, Darrow & Lind had a Variety and Grocery Store, Curtis & Ramage bought cream and butter, selling groceries and dry goods as did G.L. Dorsey. Tewell and Tenney each had a grocery store. Alex Scott and Rystrom Co. sold farm implements and Victor Anderson & Co. had a furniture store and sold pianos. Frank Freschauf was the barber. Fruide and Rinear had a restaurant and hotel and Joseph Engelke advertised meals and lunches at all hours. W.F. Gorin and Freeman Hahn ran dray and express lines. Vail & Troyer were cement block makers. Painters and paper hangers were Bergstrom & Cummings Co. and Miller & Whittemore Co. Polk Livery Barn with Ed Stevens as proprietor advertised good rigs and careful drivers. There were two banks — the Bank of Polk and the First National Bank, organized as the Merchants and Farmers Bank. The Citizen's State Bank was organized in 1919.

The trustees when Polk was incorporated as a village in 1907 were Dr. David H. Westfall, Grant Ramage, J.C. Tewell, Bert A. Darrow and Eric Forslund. The fact that the early town soon attained the look of a thriving young city was a credit to these early village trustees and other civic minded citizens. Dr. D. H. Westfall was the first mayor.

The ordinance for minors states "It shall be unlawful for any minor under the age of 17 years to loiter on or about the streets or alleys of this village or to congregate in any place of business after the hour of 8 p.m. from October 1st until May 1st and 9 p.m. from May 1st to October 1st unless accompanied by guardian or parent. Fine for violation was not less than $1.00 or more than $10.00.

The Standard Oil Company of Nebraska was granted permission to build and maintain warehouses and storage tanks in 1915.

Polk streets were graded in 1911, the work being done by horsepower. 2 miles of paving was constructed in 1915. This is a contrast from the early streets which sometimes had mud a foot or more deep during the spring thaw. In winter high drifts would accumulate in the center of the street so high that many times you could not see from one side of the street to the other. Hitching posts were placed on the east and west sides of Main Street. Automobiles and horses might be parked side by side, so in 1915 the hitching posts were removed. Sixteen more blocks of pavement were added. Today there are a number of street blocks of black top within the town area.



Looking south on Main Street - 1912.

The I.O.O.F. Hall was erected in 1915 on east Main Street and a large Hotel building was built by Arnold Hokenson. This Hotel is now used for apartments, a beauty shop, a law office, the Neuhaus Laundry and Dry Cleaning and the Library. The I.O.O.F. Hall is now used as an auditorium with Community Center in the basement and Masonic and Eastern Star Lodge rooms on second floor.

In 1933 a new waterworks system was built and in 1952 the sanitary sewer system and disposal was established at a cost of $180,699. In 1962 the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company entered into a franchise with Polk for transmission and sale of gas in Polk and around the area.

The general election of November 6, 1906 records 232 voters in Pleasant Home Precinct, held at District 71 (Mulberry) School house. Only men were permitted to vote at that time. Judges for the election were William A. Stevens, Henry R. Lind and Aquila Cohagen, Sr. Clerks were William Dahlke and Dana Deeds. A 1906 Plot book lists 213 farmers in Pleasant Home Precinct, so a vote of 232 when Polk lots had just been sold gives much credit to these civic minded pioneers who drove as far as 10 miles to vote.

By 1910 the population had increased to 396. Building projects were booming and Polk was a "Live Wire" town. Cement sidewalks were replacing the wide plank sidewalks everywhere. Acteylene gas lamps were being used in place of kerosene lamps. There were many clubs, organizations, and social activities. Modern Woodmen of the World, I.O.O.F. Lodge, Woman's Culture and Twentieth Century Clubs, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Apollo Musical Club, literary clubs as well as debating and dramatic clubs added interest to routine duties.

A neat bandstand was erected in about 1910 just south of the center of Main Street. Soon Polk had a talented band, playing on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, attracting large crowds. Stores were open these nights.

Electric lights were turned on in Polk on February 10, 1914 and in the same year the water system was extended to all parts.

A book of 100 pages giving ordinances and laws for the village of Polk was published in 1915 dealing with such laws as animals at large, automobiles, chimneys, explosives, fires, health, hitching posts, misdemeanors, scales, sidewalks, signs, trash, waterworks and lights, fire insurance and many others. These thirty-eight ordinances with many sections were well written and parts have been in use every since. It stated salary of water commissioner was to be $900.00 a year. The rate per month for electricity was 15¢ per kilowatt for the first 20 kilowatts and all over 40 kilowatts was 13¢ per kilowatt. Meters could be rented for 25¢ a month. Minimum charge for electric current and service was 50¢ per month. Water rates were 25¢ per 1000 gallons for any up to 400 gallons per day, 3000 gallons per day was

10¢ per 1000 gallons. The salary of the village marshall was to be $50.00 per year payable monthly. The village clerk's salary was also $50.00 a year.

Polk has a very adequate fire department. There have been three major fires - in 1918, the large Ed Stevens livery barn was completely destroyed - in 1919, the interior of the Polk Baptist Church burnt and in 1973 the Elementary Grade School burnt to the ground. The exact origin of these fires was never determined. Several houses have burned and the fire department has helped put out numerous fires in the rural area.

A large veterinarian's barn was erected one half block east of the north end of Main Street by Dr. Ralph L. Peterson. Harless Brothers and Charles Graves each had large horse barns at the north edge of Polk.

Polk was a prosperous and enterprising town in ea ly years. At one time it had five grocery stores, three barber shops, two cafes, variety store, two drug stores, both owned by registered druggists, two large lumber yards, three banks, three elevators, two hotels, a bakery, photographer's gallery, two drug stores, four produce stations, two undertaking establishments, five repair and gas service stations, theatre, shoe repair shop, three garages, two blacksmith shops, two livery barns and a jewelry store.

There are four churches within the village: Baptist, Evangelical Free, Trinity Lutheran and United Methodist. Within a few miles of Polk are found three more churches: Arborville, to the South, Immanuel Lutheran to the southwest and Swede Plain United Methodist to the northeast. Histories of these are found under the section of churches.

Polk has maintained since 1959 two school buildings, elementary and high school. Polk's first school building, built in 1910 was made of white brick and had four rooms. It was later remodeled and two additions added. It was destroyed by fire last year and plans are under way (1974) for a new building to be erected on the same grounds. The present high school and auditorium building was erected in 1959 and it, too, is to have a new addition soon. Polk School District 72 comprises 49,937 Acres in Polk, York and Hamilton Counties. More details of the school history may be found elsewhere.

Many changes have taken place on Polk's Main Street through the years. Buildings have been torn down and replaced. The Hotel Hokenson building was built on the old baseball field. The American Legion has remodeled and furnished a lovely building on northeast Main Street. John Adelson built a large brick building on East Main Street in 1939 which was to be occupied by Miller Cafe and Nelson and Davis Barber shop. Today the Food Shop is located here. The Citizen's State Bank was renovated in 1974 and have added drive-in service. The Sportsman's Bar, and Kansas-Nebraska Gas Company and Food Shop have new entrances. The Snack Shack and HiWay Cafe have both added space. Fredrickson Implement's large building replaced the old Dorsey Store and Bakery buildings. Hill's Construction Co. has a new building on the east side. There is only one grocery store at the present time. The numerous white painted benches that stood in front of many of the stores are almost all gone. The City Park has added equipment and tables and more new trees have been planted. The depot, built in 1907 was vacated in 1973. The large clock on the First National Bank Building was removed a few years ago. New electric light have been installed. A doctor's clinic is on West Main Street.

The Polk Garden Club helped to make Polk more lovely by planting flowers on two areas near the highways leading into Polk. Lilac Lawn, with plantings of shrubs and flowers is located north of the Co-Op Oil Station.

The Community Club, comprised of both rural and village citizens, now replaces the Commercial Club. Frank Ostrander is the 1974 president. This organization promotes activities, recreation and projects of general benefit to the Community. This year, 1974, a 4th of July Celebration was held. This event replaced the "Bean Days" which had been an annual celebrated event at Polk for many years. Prior to Bean Days, Polk usually had an annual celebration in early September, commemorating the date of the sale of the first Polk lots. Corn shows were a popular event in early days.

The Recreation Summer Youth Program and ball leagues have brought many honors to Polk. A children's reading program at the library is sponsored by the Woman's Club. Dean Myers is the 1974 mayor of Polk. Members of the present Village Board are Neil McNaught, Duane Burney, Lyle Dornburgh, Dean Myers and Ralph Redman.

The population of Polk in 1974 is 410. This is 151 less than when it reached it's population peak of 561 in 1920. There are about 30 business firms in Polk today. Many new homes have been added. Polk is an attractive village where people work together and where friendship abounds.

A LIST OF THE FIRST LOTS SOLD IN POLK FROM POLK COUNTY CLERK'S RECORD

Three Original Sellers

Victor Anderson & W. to City Improvement Co. 8-3-1906
2.3 Acres in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 21-13-4; Consideration $230.00

Henry Stunkel & W. to City Improvement Co. 7-27-1906
35.32 Acres in N$\frac{1}{2}$ NW$\frac{1}{4}$ 28-13-4; Consideration, $3,532.00.

Ernest A. Nierman & W. to City Improvement Co. 7-27-1906.
52.6 Acres in S$\frac{1}{2}$ SW$\frac{1}{4}$ 21-13-4; Consideration $5,260.00.

Original Plat of Village of Polk - Recorded 9-10-1906
City Improvement Co. sold to the following:

Charlotte Brock 9-18-1906. Lots 3-4, Block 24, Orig. Polk; Consideration $220.00.

Olaf Erickson 9-24-1906. Lots 1-3, Block 18; Consideration $390.00.

Augusta J. Green 9-18-1906. Lot 28, Block 11; Consideration $900.00.

Hilda Nelsen 10-17-1906. Lot 9, Block 16; Consideration $160.00.

George A. Hoagland 9-21-1906. Lots 1-4, Block 11 Consideration $560.00.

Polk County Telephone Co. 10-20-1906. Lot 14, Block 10; Consideration $280.00.

S.I. Moore and T.D. Hunsacker 9-18-1906. Lots 1-5, 24,25, Block 4; Consideration $1,565.00.

Cornelia Lindburg 10-27-1906. Lots 1-2, Block 7; Consideration $250.00.

F. L. Horn 9-18-1906. Lots 8-9, Block 4; Consideration $250.00.

Henry L. Stunkel to Herman G. Brauer
$600.00 dated 9-3-1906.
Commencing at the NW Corner of 28-13-4, containing 4 acres.

City Improvement to Henry Sundberg 12-8-1906. Lots 12-13, Block 2.. Consideration $220.00.

F.L. Horn to Union Pacific Railroad. $418.00. 2-15 100' on each side of main track of Union Pacific over the NE $\frac{1}{4}$SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 21-13-4, covering an area 5.44 acres.

Henry Sundberg to Union Pacific Railroad. $875.00. 2-10-1906. 75' strip each side of main track in NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 22-13-4, 9.15 acres.

Joshua Cox 9-16-1906. Lots 15,17, Block 4; Consideration $1,150.00. Lot 16, Block 4; Consideration $520.00.

John Bush 10-20-1906. Lots 4-5, Block 7, Consideration $250.00.

Bradshaw Telephone Co. 10-16-1906. Lots 7-8, Block
Consideration $375.00.

Franse Carlson 12-24-1906. Lots 10-11, Block 13; Consideration $250.00.

F. B. Hord Grain Co. 1-3-1907. Lots 10-12, Block 5; Consideration $345.00.

MAYORS OF POLK THE PAST 68 YEARS

Dr. David H. Westfall 1907-1908
Eric Forslund 1908-1911
I.T. Samuelson 1911-1913
Richard Thesing 1913-1914
Herman G. Brauer 1914-1917
Frank O. Johnson 1917-1919
Albert Sundberg 1919-1922
Herman G. Brauer 1922-1925
Oscar Strand 1925-1933
Zenas F. Myers 1933-1936
Arnold Isacson 1936-1944
Albert Sundberg 1944-1945
C. Marvin Fredrickson 1945-1958
Lloyd Stromberg 1958-1962
C. Marvin Fredrickson 1962-1965
Edward Saylor 1965-1966
Norris Alfreds 1966-1968
Dean Myers 1968-

HOUSES IN POLK

With about 175 houses in Polk, how many were built, and how many moved into Polk?

Ten new houses were built within a ten year period in the 60's.

But 20-30 of the Polk homes, according to D. N. Mills, who helped move them, came from Arborville.

Soon after the lots were sold, many buildings came to Polk from the small York County village three miles south. Most of the homes were located on lots south of main street. Two store buildings (grocery and general merchandise) moved to main street and a church building was moved to Polk also.

Mr. Mills says the Mrs. Lee Bayer, Lyle Dornburg, Fred Stellar, Ross Tarr, Mrs. B. Stohl, and Glenn Hill homes came from Arborville, Ed Alrich helped move many homes to Polk also. It generally could be done in one day, but he recalls that it took 3 days to bring the Tenney house, occupied by Mrs. John Rau. One house was moved to Frank Cohagen's area of Polk.

A steam engine was used to power the moving house. A Mr. Myers of York was "Butch's" boss, he says.

POLIO EPIDEMIC

Polk is known to have had two polio epidemics. In the early days of Polk a wave of illness of the dread disease left many crippled for life. Dr. Flippin, a Negro doctor of Stromsburg, cared for many of Polk's ailing, along with Dr. Woeppell and Dr. Westfall.

In 1952, two persons died and 15 to 20 were seriously ill. Janice, 11 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Crow died on September 20, 1952. Mrs. Gordon Carlson, age 21, died the day before.

Janice's brothers Calvin and Verlin were both seriously ill with polio. Two members of the Carlson family, Mrs. Ted Janky and Mrs. Janky's sister Alice, were also stricken with polio.

School was closed for over a week and town activities were curtailed.

Seventy-Eight
by M.F. Smith-written in 1932 at age 78

I'm seventy eight and as I wait, I often think of Home,
But I stay a day, then another day,-Till I have no hair to comb.

It now appears, this flight of years,-Is but a fleeting rush.
Of tin's alloy of pain and joy - Till I have no teeth to brush.

We sometimes meet along the street,-Or often, passing near,
I'd say to you, "how do you do, ?"-But I have no ears to hear.

This going West is called no jest,-Unless we're kind and good,
So while we stay at work or play,-Let's all act as we should.

Yet, 'tis so dear to linger here,-I hardly care to go.
And if your wise, you will surmise,-It's cause I like you so.

PIONEER MEMORIES

The Adelson family recall a story told by Grandpa of an Indian making an unexpected visit early one morning. They were frying bacon for breakfast. He grabbed the bacon out of the skillet and ate it.

He was riding a pony. He wanted corn and packed it hither and yon in his loose clothing, tying it in with a string.

As he started off with the pony, the string broke and the corn fell to the ground. He didn't stop to pick it up, either from laziness or indifference.

MEMORIES OF MY EARLY LIFE IN POLK AREA

By Ruth Lindburg Aker

Cold Days of Winter

I've heard tell of that blizzard of 1888. My parents were visiting my grandparents by Stromsburg.

Dad walked all the way to his farm to care for his livestock a distance of sixteen miles.

I recall with pleasure winter fun times. We liked to hitch a horse to a sled and go traveling.... We rode mostly in a bob sled with hay in the bottom of the sled. We often heated bricks to keep our feet warm. Skating on the ponds was enjoyed also.

Broom Corn - First Lot sold in Polk - Post office

Broom corn was a staple crop in days gone by. I recall that harvesting of the corn, which was sold to make brooms, was a busy time.

The crop looked much like a field of cane. When it was ready to harvest men went through the field and bent the stocks down, bending them about table high. Later the tops were cut with broom corn knives and laid in a pile. These piles were placed on a flat bottom wagon, brought to long tables under shade trees, sorted in hand size bunches and then placed in a scraper where the seeds were removed.

Then they were taken to the corn crib and put on shelves to dry. "Dad's policy was always business before pleasure", but on the special day in 1906 when lots of the new town of Polk were being sold, the men were allowed to stop and go to town. I recall my father said the first lot sold was where the post office now is located.

I recall, although I was small, that I helped my brother with a scraping machine which was run by horse power to take the seeds off the broom corn. This corn, after drying, was baled in bales larger than present bales of hay.

Little girls recall humorous incidents. I remember Mrs. Jerner was helping with the broom corn. A mouse ran up the long sleeve of her dress. She grabbed it, killed it and carried it to the house for my mother to "remove".

Goose Feathers

All our pillows were filled with goose feathers in those days. I often helped pick "down the geese" on our farm. We only picked the fine down on the breast bone. It took at least a dozen geese for a pillow. I still have some of those pillows - I believe eight of them.

Home-made Ice Cream Socials

Having a neighborhood ice cream social was great fun. I especially recall the one on Uncle Charley Lindburg's lawn. They had hung paper Japanese lanterns around to give a special effect.

Threshing Machine Days

We helped the neighbors, then neighbors helped us with the threshing of wheat and oats.... Mrs. Richard Sealey's father ran a big steam engine to "Steam up" the separator. We had about 10 to 20 men for several days. Oh the cooking. For breakfast, fried potatoes, slabs of ham and eggs, lots of homemade rolls and bread and coffee . . . No electricity . . . I can see my mother yet, standing over a hot cob and coal burning stove, with 100 degree weather outside, cooking and baking. The neighbor women often exchanged work, following the thresh-crew.

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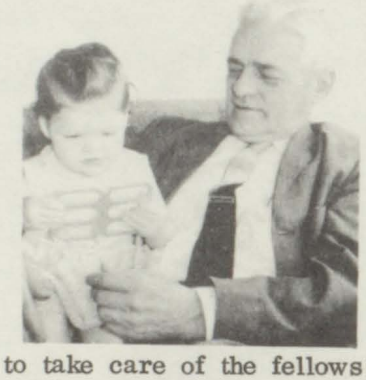
Mrs. Parker Aker tells this of her brother Maurice when they were kids on the farm. Their father, Will Lindburg was ill. He was in bed upstairs.

He asked Maurice to fetch his pills and water. Maurice, misunderstanding, wondering why, but dutiful fetched him a pail full of water.

MEMORIES OF LIVING IN POLK

Orrin Alfred



Orrin Alfred of 1625 Polk St. in San Francisco, and a brother of Progress Editor, Norris, has over the years written many interesting articles about Polk for the Progress. With his permission we will abbreviate and use some here.

"I recall being a water boy for the gang of negroes who laid Polk's paving in 1919. As water boy I had to take care of the fellows who were unloading brick in another part of town. I was constantly traveling between the group. I generally rode alongside the truck driver on a plank, holding on with one hand, and with the pail and dippers in the other hand.

I recall the "darkroom" at the Strand home - the clothes closet on the second floor, where the Strand boys, Fat, Pete and Godfrey (I can't imagine the source of nicknames for Hilding, Warren and Harold) and myself as amateur photographers developed film. I recall one time, when an under-exposed was over corrected and Fat said, "We made a Negro out of him that time".

"Polk families with any social pretension saw to it that any preconceived musical inclinations among their children (and the mere ability to hum a tune sufficed) were developed by cajoling and occasionally forcing the embryonic artist to "take" music lessons.

Thus Dana Westfall took piano lessons. Ellen Larson asked him to play a piano solo for Sunday School; "Not

on your tintype" said Dana. No, agreed Ellen brightly, "on the piano".

But Ellen was more successful in persuading Bill McGaffin to display his talent on that instrument by playing a hymn, on the piano. Leading of the singers was done usually by the pianist. But Bill was doing no leading and for a time I wondered if we were on the same road".

"My own ability with the violin was probably commensurate with Dana's and Billy's on the piano, but I kept at it longer, and in time, was tolerated as a member of the church and or village orchestras, both led by Philip Sack.

I recall there was Zora Shafer, first violin, (I played second) Tressa Hill, saxophone, Harry Schultz, Flute, Rodney Allison, Clarinet, Naomi Alfred, piano, Charlie Johnson on the drums. Bob Myers, who graduated with me in 1925 was something of a virtuoso on the mouth organ.

"I was called "Ole" when in school. Sterling Nelson hung that name on me. My cousin, tall Harvey Alfred was known as "Big Ole". The two Slusser boys whose dad was a doctor were called "Big Doc" and "Little Doc".

It was in 1921 that a tornado demolished Axel Jones' barn a mile south of town. We went to see the damage. The house had lost one chimney and the barn was gone. Axel and Mrs. Jones had taken refuge in the storm cellar.

"The first vacuum tube in Polk caused holes in trousers of two H.S. students' is the story told in one letter from California. The first radio, or as it was then called, wireless in Polk was owned by the Frazier boy. When they moved to York, this equipment was for sale. With Earl Cole's interest in the stuff and the combined money of Carl Newman and myself, we bought it. Shortly after acquiring this set, Earl was visited by older people and teachers to "listen in". In time we got a set with a vacuum tube. I built the set myself and the tube cost me $7.50 which I was a long time saving up."

These vacuum tubes operated on storage batteries which had to be recharged from time to time by one of the town's garages. Carl and I at various times, helped carry the tubes to the garages and each of us, in some careless manner had gotten battery acid on our pants.

Carl discovered it first. We were in school. His pants were falling apart. (My pants were of wool and didn't disintegrate so rapidly.) Carl left school, ran down the alley for a change. I got home OK, but when I put my hand in my pocket I felt my bare leg, the material forming the pocket was gone.

Orrin recalls the scarlet fever outbreak at Polk. His sister Lorna got it. When she returned from a ride with boarder Philip Sack, he was quarantined out. He went to Uncle Albert Alfred on the farm. Three weeks later cousins Leroy and brother, the twins, Donald and Dudley came down with the disease. Again I was quarantined out.

Axel Jones and Dad Alfred were good friends and this time, it was arranged that I stay with the Jones family. Axel's youngest son, Calmar was about a year younger. For a week we made like cowboys. On a couple of saddle horses we drove a herd of 15 to 20 cattle to a cornfield or pasture. After 3 weeks with the Jones family I returned home. My sister Naomi had been quarantined with the Hill girls, Neva, Tressa and Vera. At our first meal together again, though it was the family custom for the children to say grace, Dad took over and made a lengthy and inclusive prayer of thanks. Mother Alfred put the matter more succinctly, "We were certainly lucky."

"The first automotive transportation in the Alfred family was a truck, a motorized lumber wagon, with a chain driven large, hard-rubber-tired wheels. Old Sal was the family name for the car and I feel sure it was painted red. (This was in an era when most all cars were painted black). The second car Dad owned was black, a Moline touring car, which had to be hand-cranked. When we got stalled with that car, Dad walked to the nearest farmhouse, called the dealer who had previously tried to make a trade, told him he'd trade and we rode to Polk in a brand new Jackson VIII. Some 15 feet airhose was stored under the car's front seat, enough to reach any tire on the car."

"Them's the best peanuts you ever put in your mug, boy" were the words of the Medicine man, who sold hair restorer at Polk. I was about 12 years of age and sold peanuts for him. Preliminary to the selling part I had to do the packaging. I'm sure there wasn't a dime's worth of peanuts in the bags I sold, but they did have a certain amount and were not the complete gyp every purchaser discovered the good "doctor's" hair restorer to be.

"There was one occasion when Dana Westfall and I, both without funds, were possessed with a powerful yen for a bit of candy. Scrounging around, Dana found a couple 2¢ stamps. These we endeavored to trade back to Amos Shafer, the postmaster. But Amos was having no part of such a transaction. In all justice, he probably surmised the source of the stamps."

"I shined shoes, sometime in the 20's. This was at one of the town's two barber shops. There was still a certain amount of holdover prosperity from the war years and prices were high. I did my bit by raising the price of shines from a dime to 15¢. While thus engaged, I don't recall how long, I did all right."

Though it may be a "believe or not item", I did my first sailing near Polk. There was much water, both in amount and regularity, in basins around.

The Curtis family when they left Polk left behind the skeleton of a canoe, about 7 or 8 feet long, 2 feet wide in the middle. Ribs were of wooden barrel hoops. I covered the canoe with some canvas, painted it for waterproofing, contrived a mast of about 4 feet and as I recall used a coaster wagon to transport it to Z.F. Myers ice pond with a "Columbus, here I come".

Years later I learned that successful sailing involves both a rudder and a keel, neither of which was I equipped. With the wind I sailed nicely. I tried quartering, but discovered I was being blown sideways. One learns. Shortly afterwards I abandoned basin, canoe and the whole idea.

I was six when we moved to Polk. Before memories are fragmented. But I can recall with vividness, then, too old for such incontinence to be tolerated, I wet my pants and mother devastated my self esteem by pinning a diaper on me. I remember throwing myself across a bed and bawling. Whether or not this would constitute presently approved techniques, I don't know, but with me, at least it was effective.

My Grandpa Lindeberg, a retired Swedish minister, when he lived at Polk always averred, as he walked in the early 30's downtown with his dull grey beard and black hat, to the water fountain across from the band stand, the best drinking water in town.

That beard suffered considerable temporary damage.

The house being chilly, he decided to kick up the fire and poured a bit of kerosene on some still-hot coals. The ensuing "poof" destroyed the symmetry of his "beard", singed his eyebrows, and gave a facial burn or two. He was lucky. Dad retrimmed the beard.

Grandpa had ideas concerning the Sabbath. One Sunday morning I was discovered sewing a button on my shirt. He growled at me, "You wouldn't be permitted to do that in MY house on a Sunday. He had a prodigious ability to memorize, he could recite chapter after chapter of the Bible. He once told me "When the Lord got hold of me, he made a good man of me".

In a March, 1974 letter to this writer, Orrin tells of how he got to ride to Chicago on a train to go to linotype school. He said Oscar Strand was shipping cattle and as shippers got a free train pass for each load, he got a free ride to the Windy City.

He says in seven more weeks he expects to hang up the "shovel and the hoe hoo-hoo-hoo-and live on Social Security a couple of well earned pensions and the interest on his debts".

We hope he often visits Polk.

THOSE WONDERFUL ONE ROOM SCHOOL DAYS

Mildred Anderson

Those Wonderful One Room School Days! How I enjoyed them! With love and affection we were all just one big happy family. From coaxing a fire in the old heater each morning to sweeping the wide board floor each late afternoon, every hour was a delight to me. The younger ones learned from the older ones - the larger ones helped the little ones and all worked together to help each other and me. I was surprised one day when one of the first graders could do long division from watching the older ones. How I loved my 32 pupils in all eight grades. They were wonderful! I had never attended or visited a rural school so it was all a new experience.

The lunch buckets around the stove on cold days, the starched dimity sash curtains, the dark gray woodwork, the stone water jar, the tin cups lined up on the shelf, the crudely built shelf with Webster's mammoth dictionary on it were all typical of the one-room school of 1922. Mine had a gray cupboard at the back, small and inadequate for all the books, crayolas, scissors, construction paper and games.

What fun it was to practice dialogues, songs and recitations for the school program and annual box supper. Usually numbers were sold on a 5 lb. box of candy which was raffled off. I recall our negro minstrel number at that first program which made quite a hit with the audience. A second grade boy, could jig and added greatly to that number. The toy band was a novelty to these pupils and greatly enjoyed.

We had attendance contests, cyphering and spelling matches and worked for weekly reading awards. The award a lovely picture card with the words "Reward of Merit" on it. The County Superintendent provided beautiful attendance certificates for the pupils. There was no discipline problem as these conscientious pupils worked so hard to get their lessons and developed initiative and responsibilities. The 8th graders worked so hard to pass the dreaded State 8th Grade Examinations held each May in Osceola. Cube Root and Square Root, were 8th grade arithmetic requirements and Mental Arithmetic, Drawing, Penmanship, English Composition were separate tests the 8th grade had to pass in addition to the other regular study tests.

I recall with deep feeling those happy days. My 8th grade pupil is now married to my youngest sister. The pretty little second grader married one of my brothers and the sweet little preschooler who visited one day (at another rural school I taught) married my youngest brother.

PIONEER STORIES

Mrs. Ruth Benjamin Bragg recalls hearing these pioneer stories.

When daddy was only two years old, he went with his parents to Clarks the closest town for supplies in early days. They forded the Platte River to get there, as there was no bridge.

One day, enroute home, a big prairie fire broke out. They were in a buckboard. They couldn't turn back, so through they must go. The child and mother, were wrapped in a blanket. For two miles they drove through flames. This terrifying experience always remained in Fitch's memory.

Fitch also told his daughter of how he got scars on his body. He and his brother were playing in the kitchen when his mother had a big boiler of clothes on the stove. In some way, they overturned the boiler and the hot water fell on Fitch. He was then about 7 years of age. He carried the scars all his life.

"I recall my year with Grandma Benjamin, who was deeply religious. Every evening at a certain time, as long as she had her eyesight, just before retiring she read me a chapter from the Bible".

PIONEER MEMORIES

Herman G. Brauer

Mrs. Leo Wurtz of Golden, Colorado, tells us that county records show H. G. Brauer as buying the first land in Polk, 4 acres from Henry Stunkel on September 3, 1906, just before Polk was laid out in lots.

Verbena says that Olga Jerner Whitacre told her she has memories of plaster coming off the walls of the house their parents moved into town.

Mrs. Wurtz tells of things Olga Jerner Whitacre told her of her memories. She was seven and she recalls that her parents took in boarders and she and brother Orion had to carry water for some distance. They would stand right beside the boarders so that they, when washing, didn't use too much water. Later they had a horse and hauled the water by barrel to the home.

One of Polk's first telephone offices was in the Brauer home (now Wall Funeral Home). Mrs. Cypher operated it.

"Mother also helped out with the family income by taking in boarders. Our home housed many of Polk's first teachers. There was also a hired man for helping father, William Schwiekert".

When the first paving was put in, his daughters recall that Mr. Brauer paid out over $4,000 for the strip past his home. Our neighbors across the street, Abe Dornburghs paid $800 for the part in front of their house.

Verbena says that their family had one of the first radios in Polk, an old Water Kent with earphones. We would huddle around and listen in rapture".

"Furniture in those days was reasonable. Her singer sewing machine cost $37. $16 was paid for a three piece bedroom set."

Mr. Brauer did custom threshing 36 years of his life and general concrete work, many of Polk's sidewalks were laid by him. 12,000 feet of gutter and curbing was laid.

Mr. Brauer was Polk mayor for 8 years, on Board of Education 19 years, City Council 18 years, Fire Chief 42 years and 21 years as a Polk mortician.

Both he and his wife were active Immanuel Lutheran Church members.

Both are buried at Immanuel Cemetery near the church.

Mrs. Sam Wall of Hampton, Mrs. B. Baack of York and Mrs. Wurtz of Colorado are the daughters of the Brauers. Mrs. Rosella Kruse is deceased.

TORNADO IN POLK COUNTY

by Neva Hill Bright

It was in the spring of 1920 when I was teaching in the country school of Polk County, Dist. 38 known as Frog Pond, that a tornado hit the area. The school was two miles south of the town of Polk.

Just after last recess everyone was in his seat—there were thirteen children in school that day—and papers for the writing lesson had been placed on each desk. Suddenly every paper was blown off every desk, and I went to close an east window. I was precisely in time to see a barn lifted from its location and hurled into a field. The barn was from the farm of the Axel Jones family one-fourth mile east of the school. There was an angry, black, funnel-shaped cloud hovering there. The children and I ran out of the schoolhouse and into the play ground and lay down in the ditch at the side of the yard.

We saw the cloud lift and move to the northwest, but mostly north. We watched it dip down once more to take a water tank from the Jim Nelson farm then it proceeded north.

Almost before the cloud was out of sight, my Dad appeared at the school to see if we had been harmed, and to take me home. It goes almost without saying that school was dismissed for that day.

People in Polk, where I lived with my parents and sisters, had been anxiously watching that violent looking cloud. It had come from slightly east of south instead of from the southwest as those storm clouds usually come and had proceeded north. Many people went out to see what damage had been done at Jones' farm. The barn had been demolished, a chimney had been blown from the house and the garage had been moved from its foundation. The Jones family had taken shelter in their storm cellar and no one had been injured.

Polk residents considered themselves lucky that the storm had not touched down on the town. However it was a near miss.

MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE SWEDES

I've always lived among Swedes. My mother was a Swede. My father married a Swede. That makes me a half-Swede.

My mother had attended College, something unusual in the 1890's for a young lady. I'm sure most of the "culture" that might have rubbed off on us children came from my mother's side of the house. My dad only went through the fifth reader. Most children in those days only went to school a few months in winter time - too much work on the farm to be done.

Dad first laid eyes on mother in church.

His folks pioneered to Polk County in 1873. Mothers folks came later. Dad, a young man, was sitting near his mother, when the Peterson family entered church. She whispered to her son, "that little Swede girl would make you a good wife". He blushed and took a second look. She did look "good."

In 1894 on a cold but sunny day in December, they were married in the Peterson living room. They began life together on a "shoe string," they knew pioneer hardships.

Mother gave birth to 11 children. My father told me, after hearing how much I yelled when my first child was being born, "your mother had all her children at home, with only the aid of a mid wife." She would hold to me tight when the pains came, but she didn't cry out. Even the hired man upstairs never knew of the new arrival until the next morning.

A few years ago I visited Sweden, my grandparents native land. I'd heard the glowing reports of this country of Swedes and felt "this must be next door to heaven." My main thought was, "I wish my mother could be here too!"

The Swedish element in my life - how can I best express it? I think the Swedes are among the finest, the most congenial, the hardest working and the happiest people I know. I'm proud of my Swedish heritage.

Mother saw to it that we attended Sunday School and Church. It was taken for granted that each Sunday we'd be in our places.

This habit from childhood has carried over, so that, if I miss, even one Sunday, I feel "guilty" as if I'm letting mama "down," doing something wrong.

Mother always felt an education was of great importance. Her first 3 children died before they were 5 years of age, one with whooping cough, another because of scarlet fever.

She believed always, "What you have in your head nobody can take away from you." This philosophy carried through the education of 8 children, who rode to school in a buggy drawn by Colonel, the faithful white horse. She never kept one of us home to help her. I wish she had, she had heart trouble, she needed our help, this pioneer woman who had no electricity, no modern conveniences. All of us five girls attended college and all of us, like mama, taught school. One sister, Hazel Hill still does.

Mother never talked much "Swede" around us children, or dad. We couldn't understand much of the language. But I recall one thing, when she wanted to tell relatives something she didn't want us to understand, she talked Swede, much to our disgust.

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" has nostalgic memories. It was not only sung at our parent's wedding, but at their respective funerals, 20 years apart.

My Swedish mother died at age 60, her tired heart

gave out. Her working days were long, but she often sang as she worked, "Work for the Night is Coming", and "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" were two favorites that best suited her soprano voice. She grew up learning to sing without a piano, there wasn't any in the early churches. Memories of her singing have been a fond parental memory.

--- Grayce Burney

A family story recalled by Mrs. Nettie Carlson tells of their neighbor, the late A.V. Kjelson of Stromsburg.

Mr. Kjelson once jokingly said that he'd trade a horse for an Indian squaw when a tribe of Indians stopped in the area.

The Indians took the remark seriously and he had a hard time to convince them that he was only joking,.... "This incident stands out in my mind of early recollection."

Mrs. I.S. Cooper of York writes of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Shafer, early residents of Polk.

Amos Shafer and wife, the former Linnie Plessinger lived in Arborville where he was postmaster and taught school before the family moved to Polk in 1907. He taught for 21 years in various districts.

He was postmaster here many years, also had a grocery store, served 18 years on the school board. Son Harry (who married Madge Barber of Stromsburg) had a jewelry store in Polk in the early years. Amos Shafer died at age 81, in 1940 and was engaged in teaching a Sunday School class just three weeks before his death. He was always active in civic affairs also.

Their six children were Shannon, who served in the Navy, sold insurance, lived at York, died in 1972 at age 84 years, Harry, of Mesa, Arizona; Gredola of Mesa, Arizona; Ruthie of Roseburg, Oregon; Norma, who was employed in the Secretary of State office in Lincoln before her marriage and now lives in Omaha; Zora who worked in a grocery store and in Alfred's store, and 8 years in the post office, now lives in York (is Mrs. Isaac Cooper). Mrs. Shafer died in 1961 at the age of 96 years.

"My father was a man of principle and always stood for what he believed was right".

Mrs. Ernest Flodman only surviving child of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson relates how snakes would crawl above the windows and doors in the sod house and her mother would carry them out.

They had only one hen that would come in daily and lay an egg under the bed.

They had 3 sheep, one black and 2 white. Her mother would card the wool, spin yarn and knit the clothing (socks, sweaters, scarves, mittens, etc.) for the family.

The family went by wagon and horses to Central City and the horses had to swim across the Platte River as there were no bridges. They would exchange wheat for flour.

Mrs. Johnson would walk to Arborville with a basket of eggs to buy groceries. They would buy 1 lb. of green coffee beans which had to be heated in the oven till brown and stirred continuously, then ground and cooked.

Corn was planted by hand. Each new settler that came to the community the neighbors would share their grain so they would be able to plant corn and make a living.

An interesting story is told about Frank Fruide, the Italian who had the first eating place in Polk. His brother, Nickavangela and he were stolen from their parents in Italy and brought to Omaha, Nebraska. Their parents were too poor to hire legal help to get their boys back. The couple who stole the boys, disappointed they didn't get any ransom money, were very mean to them. The two brothers decided to run away. They jumped on a freight train at Omaha, Nebraska and agreed to get off the first time the freight stopped long enough. The train stopped at Clarks and Frank got off. But Nickavangela didn't. Frank was picked up by a farmer and grew to manhood around Polk, married and established a home, never hearing from his brother.

Years later at a Fourth of July celebration at Stromsburg a group of Italians from Chicago came to play for the dance. Frank told them his story and one of them said that sounds like my friend Nickavangela's story. Excitedly, Frank called Chicago and asked the man to come here. When he came Frank identified his brother by the scars on his arm where he had been bitten by the lady who stole him.

MY COLLEGE DEGREE - It Took Forty Years

Hazel Stevens Hill

It took me 40 years, but in July, 1969, I said, "Hurrah--I have it!" It took years of summer classes, evening work, in-between studying, challenges, indecisions, sweat, and even a few tears.

I was graduated from Polk High School in 1929. Having taken a normal training course, I passed the teachers exams and was given a teachers certificate. District #45 with 26 students, all 8 grades, was my first school. How well I remember my first pay check! It was $80.00. I feared the bank might "go broke" and I'd lose it. My dear mother said she would reimburse me if such was the case. I taught for 2 years and saved enough to pay one full term college expense in 1931-32.

But I liked real well a curly-haired schoolmate. I married him. Two girls blessed our home and I went through a routine of diapers, safety pins, lullabies, teaching and learning. Intermittently, I did substitute teaching at Polk School.

My mother had been a school teacher. We were eight children, myself the youngest daughter.

I'd admired mother, who had two years of college. (Few were so blessed in those days.) She had taught school in Iowa and Nebraska.

My older sisters - Beulah, Blanche, Mildred, and Grayce all had taught school. I wanted to be a teacher also.

But I felt more education was necessary. So I began planning for that "sometime, bright horizon" - a college degree in education.

The first courses I took were in Psychology and Science. I got a grade of A and a "pat on the back" (literally speaking) of "You've done real well."

Encouraged, I went on. I took a great number of "off campus" courses held in the evenings. My first was at York. My sister Mildred enrolled also and went with

me for weekly sessions (about 12 weeks). Later, I remember driving home alone from York at 10 o'clock at night during a snow storm. I had my head out the window so I could see the road - wondering all the way if I would get home safely and if the desired college credits were really worth it.

There were summer sessions with Alice Fredrickson and Marlene Larson. We'd get up each morning at 4 and drive to Lincoln for 7 a.m. class.

I went to Central City to take classes. Sister Grayce and Mrs. Henry Horstman went along for the class also.

When I motored to Grand Island for regular sessions, Mabel Fossberg, Lucile Tyler, and Dian Wurst took the courses with me.

Alice Burke went with me to Science Class at Columbus every Thursday evening for one semester.

Little by little I climbed the ladder. Mother died in 1932. I recalled always her words, "What you have in your head nobody can take away from you."

My head was pretty full, my girls were in college by now. My husband, as a highway contractor, was gone quite a lot and I was a teacher in the Polk Elementary School.

New methods, new approaches, new types of motivation were evident in the teaching profession. In all this my motto remained, "May each child become all he is capable of being."

I increased my knowledge and helped Polk area students (not up to par in classes) by after school help, and by summer private coaching.

Time marched on - essentials of the required hours given at winter classes were growing.

I recall a winter - going to Lincoln, almost fatal accident.

Roads were icy, it was very cold, but Mrs. Boyd Stuhr and I decided we shouldn't miss our early morning class.

It seemed to be better on the new Interstate, so I speeded the Mercury up a bit. But under a viaduct an unexpected ice spot was hit. The car and occupants were thrown into the nearby ditch. We didn't turn over, but we were shook up! Go home - or on to Lincoln? Getting that degree was important. We slowly "crept" to Lincoln. Enroute home, we learned a lady was killed and her car demolished at this same place this same morning.

To gain more credits given by those off campus college courses, Alice Fredrickson and I would, after school, dash to Lincoln, eat a bit, and be ready for the 7 p.m. session. Home by 12, if we were lucky. I also took an off-campus course at David City.

I appreciated and loved the courses that were lecture. That meant no "pre-preparation." Of course, there were tests, so one didn't dare let "Old Man Sleep" overcome us.

There were some fun classes. The Physical Education class had me jogging around the Polk athletic field at daylight many a morning. Sometimes my jogging was just around my yard. A few times a nearby dog barked at me and I hoped my early morning activity didn't wake up the neighbors.

Once I was the "model" for the class. We'd all written a theme about how we'd do in a certain situation. Mine was judged best, so I was to act it out. I always liked plays and acting - so this was fun.

I recall the night of graduation, the proud husband, the proud sisters, and neighbors Elwood Sandells who had come to Lincoln to see me with the cap and gown receiving the coveted diploma. I ranked in the top area, "age wise," but also scholastically.

Hubby said, "This is special - we'll have a dinner afterwards to celebrate. We did just that - a buffet that filled our stomachs.

But my heart was the "fullest." I'd run the course - I'd finished the race - 40 years, bit by bit, teacher by teacher, friend by friend, a push here, a help there.

It can be done, but I assure you, it's hard work to get a college degree in the way I did.

A Polk "old timer" was Mrs. Cora Lindburg, who lived to be 95 years of age. Both she and her husband, the late Charles H. Lindburg had taught rural Polk County schools. The Lindburg name is synonymous with the Baptist Church, as Mr. Lindburg was one of the organizers of the church and Sunday School Supt. 40 years. He was known as Judge Lindburg as he was elected village judge and served in that capacity many years.

Mrs. Lindburg recalls that when a baby, her mother was almost scalped by an Indian. Struggling with the Indian with a buggy whip, she asked one of the older children to go for help. The child only went part way, as she became worried about her mother. But the Indian seeing her and thinking she was bringing help, left.

The blizzard of '88 was well remembered by Mrs. Lindburg. She was in school January 12, 1888 when her father came for her. He told the teacher he would take home with him all the children going south and that another parent would take with him home all those going north. The inexperienced teacher was happy for his help and all came through the event okay.

She remembers her mother telling her that when the first train came to Genoa, where she lived as a girl, that she and another lady were so happy, they went out on the prairie, gathered wild flowers and scattered them ahead of the train.

The Lindburg daughter, Mrs. Grace Nilson of Marquette is the only descedent of the family in this area.

PIONEER MEMORIES

by Bill McGaffin of Washington D.C.

Mr. McGaffin, Polk graduate in 1928, is with the Washington Bureau of Chicago Daily News.

His father, Hugh McGaffin was publisher of the Polk Progress and his grandfather founded the Bellwood Gazette. Graduate of the University of Nebraska, he was associated with the Associated Press from 1935 to 1956 when he joined the Chicago paper to cover the Capitol, White House, and Pentagon.

A book he has written was donated to the Polk Library.

He writes:

I think it must have been 1912 when my folks moved to Polk from David City where I was born. I know that my mother was active in the Red Cross in World War I. She even had me knitting little squares which were sewn together into blankets to send to the men over there.

I had a dog named Shep and I'll never forget how my dad, in a patriotic fervor, donated him to be raffled off

and then bought him back for me. He was a beautiful collie and I had a few bad moments until I was sure Dad would get him back.

My memories of Polk also include learning to skate on the town ice pond--which was sawed up and carried to our old-fashioned ice boxes on hot summer days. And of learning to set type in my Dad's newspaper office, the Polk Progress.

My mother used to leave me there sometimes when I was little and Dad would have me set my name to amuse me. When I got older, I would set news items and ads and help him put out the paper. I would also meet the train twice a day to report the arrivals and departures. I remember one time Dad arranged to have the band at the station to welcome Mr. J.N. Norton who was being boomed for Congress by Dad.

This will really date me, but I must tell you that my memories also go back to the days when cars were scarce and we did not have one. We used to sit on our front porch and hope that somebody would come by and take us for a ride--which they did occasionally.

When we got our first, car, my Dad who had had no trouble with horse and buggies decided that Mom had better be the chauffeur. He never did learn to drive. Mom did and I did not think anything of it at the time. I am impressed now as I look back as I think she must have been in her mid forties when she first learned to drive. Our first car was a Davis touring car--which, of course, is not made anymore. After that, we had Buicks. You could get a driver's license in Nebraska at that time just by going to Osceola and asking for it in the court house, and you only had to be 14. My mother taught me how to drive when I was 14 and after that I shared the family chauffering duties with her.

Her early experience, like my Dad's, had been with horses. Her father, Charles W. Derby, had had a ranch in Bellwood, Nebraska, where she was born. He would go out to the western part of the state and get wild horses. Then he would bring them back to his ranch where my mother would help him break them for the carriage trade in Chicago, where they were shipped. I can remember seeing a picture of my mother in a beautiful riding habit, riding side saddle.

The radio was in its infancy in my boyhood days in Polk (television was not even on the horizon at that time) and my mother and I used to spend hours every night sitting with head sets on, listening to a little one-tube radio set to bring us in exciting sounds from Pittsburgh, New York and other far away places.

I have warm memories of Paul Stevens and of the visit to the Stevens farm. I liked farms. My grandfather on my mother's side, Charles W. Derby, used to have a farm at Mitchell in western Nebraska which I loved to visit. I also have vivid memories of sitting in a wagon load of wheat at harvest time in the Polk area, courtesy of the Larson sisters. Paul and I were always good friends in school and I especially admired him because he was an athlete which I was not.

On hot summer days we sometimes would drive over to the Platte, but it was so shallow it was hard to swim in. I did not learn to swim until I joined the YMCA in Lincoln while I was going to the University of Nebraska.

I remember very well the 12 years I spent going to school in Polk. I had some good teachers and will always be grateful for the time and patience they spent on me.

Good luck on your project--and give my warmest regards to all of my class mates and old friends.

Sincerely, William McGaffin

Mrs. C. J. McCoy (age 89) who with her family came to Polk in 1926 tells us of rock beads, as a girl, she and her sister picked them on the prairie, near Wymore, on Kenney Hill.

They are said to have come from a plant grown in Nebraska and Kansas years ago, crinoid.

They are white, (most of them) the size of an aspirin, some had a "mouth", some had holes.

They would pick them up by handfuls, string them and wear them as beads. They were put on watch chains for men also. They are now seemingly extinct; Mrs. McCoy still has some which she cherishes.

Her daughter Mrs. Mervin (Helen) Samuels lives at Polk. Other children are Cenith Penrose, Bula Springer, Gladys Andrews and Doris Baker.

Both Mr. and Mrs. McCoy were active church workers in Polk Methodist Church.

MEMORIES OF BY GONE DAYS

Thankful for Ceiling
by Mary Fern Myers in 1972

Many years ago, a pioneer grandmother told me this true story of her experience. Her family had moved from an Eastern state to settle on the barren plains of Nebraska. Their home, like those of all their neighbors, was built of sod. However they were more fortunate than some as they had a ceiling made from strips of muslin sewn together.

One night they were awakened by an unusual noise over head. Investigation showed it was caused by two large rattlesnakes swinging in their muslin ceiling. Much excitement prevailed until they finally disposed of the rattlesnakes.

This early day story was about grandpa and grandma Meredith - grandparents of the Tenney children.

MRS. WALLACE SANDELL TELLS OF HER GRANDMA

Mrs. Wallace Sandell tells this story of Christina Lind Rydson, her grandmother, which was told by Mrs. Ellen Larson, a relative.

In April of 1873 the blizzard was one the early settlers who had come to Nebraska from Sweden never forgot.

Mrs. Rydson sent her oldest son to the stable to bring in her 6 hens to save them from freezing. She tied her clothesline rope around his waist so she could bring him back should he lose his way. He brought the 6 hens safely to the house.

"Grandma slept her first night in Nebraska sleeping under a wagon". The sod house her brother August Lind was building did not get done. They slept thus until the soddy was finished.

The problem of getting water had to be solved. Pond water was at first used, but in summer this was warm and tasted of the grasses and weeds growing in it besides being full of frogs, snakes, insects and larva.

The first wells were about 90 to 100 feet deep. Because of illness of her husband, Mrs. Rydson and her children dug a 90 foot well. She dug and the children, oldest 12 years, winched the dirt and sand up in a 12-quart cedar pail with a windlass they had made of a post supported on a couple of cottonwood crotches.

The first crops raised were squaw and flint corn, later calico corn and spring wheat.

August Lind gave land for the cemetery which is now named Lindale.

William A. Stevens

"Sod house to Shelter Belt" written by William Stevens in 1951 at age 80, tells of the Stevens family who came to Polk area over 100 years ago.

We quote: The twilight of life is upon me. I am past 80 years of age and am writing this story so that my children and my grandchildren and any others interested may never forget how this country was founded and the hardships endured by their forefathers in developing Polk County's resources.

Born at Lamotte, Iowa on September 25, 1870, I was the oldest living son of Jamier Edmund and Julia (Sealey) Stevens. My uncle, James Honess had written to my father telling him that Polk County, Nebraska land was very fertile and this Nebraska state was rich in opportunity. Father decided to come and later stated that he never regretted the move, although he passed away seven years to the day, after he arrived in Polk County.

The journey from northeastern Iowa was a difficult one. We had a cow tied along the wagon. This way we had milk for our mush made of corn meal. Occasionally there was a prairie chicken.

My first lesson in honesty was learned on this trip. Father, walking beside the wagon one day, found a man's leather wallet. Handing it up to mother, he told her to open it and count the money. "No," she said, "it belongs to someone and they will be returning to look for it."

Sure enough, the next fore-noon, a man on horseback rode up. After identifying the wallet, father handed it to him. The man gave father a dollar.

That same afternoon, the man came riding pell-mell back to us. He handed my father a five dollar bill, explaining that such honesty should be rewarded. In the wallet was his life's savings, two thousand dollars in bills and notes. The man had counted it, and when he saw there wasn't a cent missing he felt ashamed, he'd only given a dollar reward.

Father didn't want to take the money, but the man insisted. Later, father said to me, "Son, remember honesty always pays." I realize now what the tear in his eye meant, as after paying the filing fee of $16 for our land, he had exactly seven dollars left and six of those were the reward dollars.

Coming to the Missouri River we found there was a toll for crossing the river. We had our faithful black dog, Lion with us. The attendant said it would be a dollar for the dog to cross. "We can't afford to pay that much," father whispered to mother, and at the same time grabbed Lion by the back of the neck and threw him into the water. My heart stood still.

But Lion beat us to the other side and stood shaking off the water as we landed.

The memory of our arrival in Polk County is associated with antelope. I had never seen one before and there were several along the road outside of Osceola. Father shot one and we had antelope meat to replenish our scant food supply.

Coming to Uncle Frank Honess's home June 15, 1873, in West Pleasant Home precinct we stayed there while father put up a shanty of sod on his homestead 2 miles north and one east of the present town of Polk. We leveled the ground, carefully measured, and started building our first Nebraska home —a sod shanty. This first soddy stood a quarter of a mile east and up in the field. Father went to the Platte River to find a ridge pole for the soddy. He brought home smaller trees for rafters. Brush and swale hay were used for the roof. This was our home for seven years.

Our next sod house had a board roof and floors. and a pole extended from beneath the gable so we could make a rope swing.

As it was difficult to clear very much of the sod land, our patches of sod corn and spring wheat were small the first year. Sod was broken by means of an old walking plow which we had brought along.

We planted trees started from seeds brought from Iowa. Later we sold 1½ foot trees from these coveted plantings to our neighbors for 75 cents per 100 trees. Some of our precious seedlings of box elder and ash were given to the new little town of Stromsburg to make trees in the park.

Wild plums and grape vines from the Platte River were planted on our homestead. Cedars were almost the only trees on the Platte banks at that time. No bridge was there. We forded the stream when we wanted to cross.

It would probably be of interest to many to know what it cost to homestead. Father paid $16 filing fees for the 160 acres and agreed to live on it for five years. Neighbors, friends, and relatives helped and did a lot of exchange labor.

Indians? Yes, we saw quite a few of them in this area in the days of '73. They often came to the door begging for food of any kind, even dead chickens.

One Indian incident comes to my mind. An Indian brave asked for some flour and eggs. Mother gave it to him. He put both in a large sack and tossed it across his back. In a matter of seconds, eggs were trickling. I had visions of the Indian squaw "licking" it off later.

We always tried to give the Indians whatever they wanted, or explain why. Thus, we were never molested, although others tell of incidents of cruelty.

I remember we only had three chairs, brought from Iowa. These were for my aunt, mother and father. So brother Thede and I always stood up when at meals. It was a wonderful day when father split a log in two and made a bench for us two boys to sit on. Cornbread with mush and milk was our chief diet. And we were fortu-

nate to even have that. But never a word of complaint.

In the spring of 1874 father broke up 25 acres of sod. Sod corn was planted with a hand planter, and a little spring wheat was sown. In the fall of 1873, father had gone to Cass County to help a friend pick corn. He worked all fall. His pay, a sow and a litter of pigs and some spring wheat seed. In later years, offspring from this one mother pig and little ones furnished a start in the hog business for several neighbors, too.

But in July 1874, just when it looked like we would have our first crop, the grasshoppers came. Mother brought out some bed sheets and blankets to protect her garden. But both her prized sheets from Iowa and garden plants were devoured by the ravenous insects. And the crops were completely gone.

To attend Sunday School and church was a privilege looked forward to all week. We usually walked across the section to the Cooper school house, located at the present Polk Cemetery. The Cooper Methodist Church was organized in this school building. My parents were charter members. Church was usually on Sunday afternoons. Children attended wearing overals and print dresses and came barefooted.

Later when I did have a pair of shoes, I would go barefoot until within sight of the church and then put them on, wearing them proudly. As soon as one was out of sight of the church afterwards, shoes were doffed and tucked away. That way our shoes lasted much longer. As I recall boy's shoes were less than 50¢ but that was a lot of money then.

I can remember how the minister came and boarded around at various places. I recollect a Rev. Van Deusen, who stayed at our place, as I thought it quite strange that he never ate any supper but would eat a bowl of bread and milk before going to bed.

Country churches in the eighties and nineties were more than places of worship. They were community centers as well. The church social was a "couldn't miss" event. How well I remember the oyster suppers (all the oyster stew you could eat for 75¢ a couple) the proceeds to go for a new carpet or song books. And the revival meetings with the Evangelist preaching an old fashioned gospel were always crowded affairs.

In 1880 my first great grief came into my life. My father died. He had been working in the field when a heavy rain came up and he became soaked. He took pneumonia and although mother nursed him carefully, he died three days later. He was only 33 years old. I remember well the crude wooden coffin and the bouquets of garden flowers brought. I recall how neighbors came and sat up all night with the deceased and rubbed on embalming fluid. I can still see the large, black veil that my mother wore over her hat that day, a veil that she wore for many months afterwards when she went any place. And we had a big black bow on the door, a custom in those days when there was a death in a family.

Despite all my mother could do after father died, it was necessary for me to quit school to help her. And I grew up fast, sharing the family's responsibilities as we had so little finances left after the funeral expenses were paid. When father died there were four of us children. Thede, Lula, Lillian and myself, and a few months later a baby brother Edmund was born, named after his father.

But while most of my education was the hard knocks of experience, I recall with pleasure my school days. My first school was at what was the former District 26. Pupils came for four miles in each direction to attend school. We only went a few months in the winter. Later I went a short term held in a small house on an abandoned homestead one-half mile south of the present Swede Plain church.

One day while attending this school, a covered wagon came past. We children were out playing at recess. The people in the wagon asked, "Do you know Jamier Stevens?" Did I? That was my father. I told them I'd show them the way. But in my excitement I forgot to tell my teacher and I was punished the next day for leaving the schoolground without permission. The imigrants proved to be my aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. James T. Sealey, who homesteaded near us.

I liked school. My children have seen many of the "headmarks" (little colored cards, we cherished highly) which I received for being the best speller of the week. We had oral spelling and would see who could stand the longest spelling the words. I think all the pupils liked these spelling classes.

On Fridays we always had literaries at school. Each pupil memorized a poem or something special. When I was six I recall my father teaching me this recitation.

You'd scarce expect one of my age,
To speak in public on the stage.
But if I chance to fall below
Demosthenes or Cicero,
Don't view me with a critic's eye,
But pass my imperfections by.

I always remember how the teacher praised me after I recited it. I've taught this poem to my children and grandchildren.

Poor in material things, my mother was rich in loving neighborliness. For miles around she would help in times of need, death or sickness. She drove a little team of ponies to a spring wagon.

I took care of the children when mother was gone. One day they were especially fretful. In trying to entertain them, I was shaking my head back and forth, imitating a donkey. We were sitting around the stove. I slipped against the open oven door, cutting my nose wide open. The scars still show.

Another time when I was home alone, with the children, the minister and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. J.D. Buckner came to call. They had driven from Arborviller, Nebraska, where he was the pastor and it was nearly noon when they came. There was only a little cornbread for us to eat that day (mother had so little means to buy with) and I didn't know what to do. Finally I remembered that we did have a few potatoes in the garden large enough to eat. I dug a few and Mrs. Buckner made some potato soup with a little grease in it. I said something about not having much for dinner and she said, "Well, we didn't have a single thing to eat at home, that is why we had to go someplace today. We knew mother Stevens would share what she might have."

Courting? Yes, we did that too. But it was done differently. We hitched the faithful team to the spring wagon (Lucky was the fellow who had a buggy and ponies) and went to call on our best girl on Sunday afternoon. We always hoped we would be the first one there. But sometimes difficulties arose and there'd be another "would-be courter" who had arrived first. Then our only hope was to out-stay him.

One Sunday evening a group of couples went to church in our bobsled. I was driving with my girl friend at my side. We were going to Maple Grove School where "pro-

tracted" meetings were being held. It was hilly and the girls were scared. The horses jumped and the sled went over. No one was hurt and we retrieved the horses, uprighted the sled and went on to church.

On December 5, 1894, I married Florence Matilda Peterson at a lovely home wedding at her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. Peterson.

We rented several farms, but later bought a farm 1½ miles northeast of Polk. In 1907 we built a large new house. Our eight children, Clyde, Beulah, Blanche, Mildred, Grayce, Paul, Hazel and Arlo have all graduated from Polk High School. I served on the schoolboard in the Polk district for 20 years. Prior to that I served for eleven years on Mulberry Schoolboard, District No. 71, which was located across the road east of our home.

When the railroad came through Polk, I helped haul railroad ties from Polk to Hordville for three dollars a day for man and team. This was very good wages at that time.

Polk County has had many severe hail storms. Hail took seven entire crops out of the first eleven years I farmed after my marriage. And we have had many drouth years. But none compare to the drouth of 1890, when practically nothing was raised.

I was the first appointed rural mail carrier out of Polk. Amos Shafer, who also served as carrier, was transferred from Arborville. I received $75 a month and my route was 28 miles long. My son, Clyde, was also a local carrier. Paul, another son, was substitute carrier for many years. My grandson, Gerald Stevens, is now the carrier.

To you who read these lines, I have just these few words, "Perseverance wins the race! Keep on trying!"

John Smith

John Smith, age 92, who died in 1973 following a fall in the Polk Hotel Building where he resided after the death of his wife, had lived in both a sod house and a log cabin home. He was two years old when he came to the Polk area and lived there all his life, except for the years 1919 to 1957 when he resided in Sherman County. He was Watkins man for 17 years....

He recalls Indians and the Blizzard of 1888.... He was 7 years old. His father told his older brother, Henry to take a ball of twine to guide him and go feed the horses, the twine to be used to follow the route to the barn and return. But the snow was too deep, he had to return to the house and the horses did not get fed that day....

He recalls burning corn cobs, and cow chips to keep warm, also "pig pen" cobs as they were called, as they were picked up in the pig pen by the children.

Of the Indians he recalls that each spring and fall about 15 schooners of Indian families would pass through the area. They would beg for food. In the spring, generally his mother had a few setting hens she was trying to break up in a pen. She would give them a couple of these hens.

In the fall, the Smith family had an abundance of apples. "My father would give them two gunny sacks and tell them they could have all that were on the ground, but not to pick off the trees. They complied and never gave us any trouble.... The squaws, I noticed generally rode on a pony dragging behind them a two-shaft sled, with a papoose on it".... The bucks would be on fast horses, trying to kill rabbits or wild game....

When asked about his longevity, he said when he was a youth he walked 3½ miles to school and back each day for five years and this gave him much exercise.... He added, "maybe my daily chews of "snuss" helped too"... eating lots of kraut in winter maybe helped too. Mother made 50 gallons each year.

But most of all, I never have let things bother me too much.... I've done a lot of fishing too and that is relaxing...."

Mr. Smith lost the sight of one eye when an old army musket cap exploded when he was 7 years of age.... "I see plenty with my good eye", though he chuckled.

He was an uncle of Mrs. M.G. Lindburg, Alvin Smith, Mrs. Viola Ziegelbein and Mrs. Arthur Dose of Polk area, also the late Harvey and Lloyd Hahn.

Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Smith

Mrs. R. L. Smith of Central City, who is 87 years of age recalls many things about the days when she lived in Polk and loaned us a book of poems that her father-in-law Morris Smith, whose family lived for years in the house now occupied by the M. Fredricksons, had written. At the end of this write-up, we'll print a couple of these interesting poems. Mr. Smith was a Polk Bank official in the "early days".

She recalls that she and her husband met while attending the Baptist Church College and that Leonard only came to see her 12 times before they married in 1908. She recalls that her husband, a farmer, also helped to grade the Polk streets and has a picture of Ed Rochlitz and him driving mules in 1911, with son Ted Smith in the back end of the grader.

Mrs. Smith, who for the past six years has been a Reader in the Christian Science Church in Central City where she moved in 1941, recalls that for five years at Polk, of how she led a 4-H Club (sewing). Husband Leonard was leader of a Rope Club.

Asa, a son, of Glenwood, Iowa, returns almost every year to Polk for the alumni reunion banquet. Other children are Artemise Higgs of New Hampshire, Theo Myers of California, Beryl Lamb of Minnesota, Millie Knight of Oregon, Elizabeth Knight of Oregon and Jeanne of Montana.

MY EARLY MEMORIES OF POLK

by Robert William Stevens
Lincoln, Nebraska

Probably the first recollection I have of life in Polk was when I was about 3 years old when my parents and I lived in the house north of the elevators where Robert Clymer now lives. My Dad, Clyde Stevens, fed cattle for Cox and Olson along with his mail carrier's job. It was at this time that a small dog of mine was run over by a

car. Dad put the dog in the scale house that was across the road east of the house. Mom, the former Elsie Ang, and I fed and watered the dog and eventually nursed it back to health. How glad I was!

Gerald, my brother, was born in this same house. But after not many years, my mother had to be hospitalized for a time and Dad, Gerald and I stayed with my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Stevens until such time when Mom was able to return home. We ther moved to the former Joe McClure farm north of Polk.

Growing up at this time was just on the fringe of the pioneer days and the beginning of what I guess would be called the more modern life.

My first experience with a radio was when I was 3 or 4 and Uncle Jim Sealey had an ear phone set. He would put on one ear set and the guest had one. Then Uncle Jim would turn knobs until faintly a sound of music or voice could be heard.

Thrashing in those days was done with steam engine power and thrashing machines. As grandpa, his brother, Thede, and my father had a rig we kids were involved first hand in getting the rig ready for the thrashing season. After the wheat, oats and barley were cut and shocked the steam engine, separator, water wagon and coal wagon had to be readied for the thrashing run. I remember many days, not helping much, but being around while the men repaired the steam engine, and the belts and chains on the separator. There were holes to be fixed in the water wagon and of course plenty coal was bought to keep the steam engine with fuel.

When the time came to get the rig on its run, Cordell Brown (father of Agnes Sealey) was put in charge of the steam engine. He could make it talk as no one else could. Mike Smith was boss of the separator after grandpa Stevens was no longer able to. Farm tanks had to be kept full of water which was hand pumped from the tank into the water wagon for the steam engine. I sometimes helped with this job.

The big thrill was to get to blow the whistle on the steam engine. The whistle was used to hurry along the bundle haulers, or for starting time, dinner time and quitting time.

It took many people, horses, wagons and bundle racks, so when thrashing time came to your place lots of arrangements had to be made for help.

The women had plenty to do too, stacking up on food and cooking over hot stoves, preparing meals and lunch twice a day for all the help, about 25. The machine men always stayed overnight, so there were big breakfasts to get, including fried potatoes, ham or bacon, eggs and oatmeal.

The only thing that stopped the thrashing after it started was rain, break downs and Sundays. To wind up the season there was always the thrasher's picnic with Home made ice cream, horse shoe playing and baseball games.

Horse trading was a way to get rid of extra or to acquire new horses. Horse traders traveled the country in homes built on wagon gears. The whole family would live in such quarters through out the summer months. They traveled from farm to farm buying, selling or trading their horses which they led behind their wagon.

Everyone liked to have a spirited matched team of horses and horse traders had a way of knowing who would be interested in what color, size and markings. As I remember when you bought a horse, a halter was always included. A lot of bargaining went on in a horse trade, looking at teeth, hoofs, legs, chest, and of course the subject of money. A standing order at grandpa Stevens' was never to let the horse traders water their horses out of the water tank. Give them water from your bucket to theirs. This prevented spread of horse diseases which were common in those days.

Roads were only good when the weather was dry. Snow and rain made traveling by the Ford Model T rather difficult at times. Once in the mud ruts you stayed until there was a dry spot or was pulled out by horses. Many days the mail was carried by team and mail wagon or buggy. In winter when snow was too much for the cars a team and sled was used. Regardless of the weather the mail was delivered.

I can remember, my Dad, Clyde Stevens, was a very accommodating mail carrier, doing many extra favors for the people on his route. When patrons would call the grocery store, hardware store, or want something from town, they would ask the shop keeper to see if Clyde had left yet. If not, they would ask him to drop it by on his way. Dad always did and the rewards at Christmas time in the mail boxes showed the appreciation of the people on his route. Both Dad and later, my brother Gerald were punctual carriers.

Mons Pearson was one of the early traveling salesmen. I've heard it said he used to ride a bicycle, but I remember him walking, carrying two suit cases, a red handkerchief around his neck, old coat and battered felt hat. He traveled throughout Polk County and around Hordville selling his wares.

Grandma Stevens was one of his regular customers and Mons would open his cases with his handkerchiefs, safety pins, chewing gum, buttons, thread, needles, yard goods and many other things. Grandmother always bought something from him and always gum for Gerald and me.

If it happened Mons happened by at a meal time, he was always welcome to stay and eat. He always insisted on paying with some gift out of his suitcase. He was a kind old man and we all looked forward to his coming.

One source of power for the family washing machine, buzz saw or for pumping water, when the wind didn't blow, was the old Model T Ford with a pulley on one rear wheel. The car was jacked up and a belt ran to the machine, saw or pump jack. The old Ford would boil

and snort, but the clothes got washed, the wood sawed and the water tank full of water.

The same old Model T could take you to town, for a joy ride, visit friends and see that you were in church Sundays. That is if the roads were fit to travel.

Time wasn't just spent working, although for kids the work sometimes seemed like fun.

There was time for fun, and some of the fun times I remember were when Harry Peterson, an old family friend and more of an uncle to me, would go to Clarks along the Platte River and buy watermelons. Then we would have one of the biggest watermelon feed for all who would come. Of course they were just tank cooled, but good - O Boy! Later in the year to celebrate his birthday, the Stevens' would have an oyster feed, and we'd all show up for that. They just didn't come any kinder than Harry. He lived at Grandpas for many years.

Christmas for us was like it was for all families in those days, a time to all gather at Grandpa and Grandma Stevens'. It was a time to eat all you could hold and to exchange gifts. As kids we would look forward to that day from the day the Sears Christmas (wish book) catalog came. It was a time to see the cousins, aunts and uncles that you hadn't seen for a while. And when I grew older I was always the one to be Santa Claus! I loved it too!

Butchering was a neighborhood job. A couple neighbors would butcher the hogs or cattle. We were so many at grandpas; he butchered 5 or 6 hogs and always a beef or two. The job then was to render the lard and can or cure the meat. The taste of the old smoked hams and bacons and the good home canned meat have never been equaled by the more modern processes of today.

Soap making followed the butchering. I have no idea what went into making soap, but I know Grandma had a large black kettle and whatever she put in it, she let it cook all day. When it was done it was poured out to dry. Then it was cut into bars to be stored until needed.

Canning corn was an every year job with the men picking the right ears, the kids shucking them and the women cutting the corn from the cobs and canning in glass jars, with the old glass or Mason lids and jar rings.

I recall the trips around the Platte River in search of wild grapes which were picked and made into jelly, and hearing Grandpa say "Keep out of the poison ivy, kids!" Afterwards we would roll up our pant legs, take off our shoes and socks and go wading in the river.

Every spring Will Miller who had the cafe in Polk would exchange an ice cream cone for a fresh egg. It was a day when all the kids showed up at school with an egg and rushed down to Miller's at noon for their ice cream cones. Wonder how we managed to keep from breaking those eggs at school. Ice cream cones were a real treat in those days.

Of course Dad let Gerald and I ride on the mail route with him real often so we knew about everyone and where they lived in those days. Ben Peterson had a mail box post shaped like Uncle Sam. It never failed that whenever we would reach that box Uncle Sam would say "Hello Boys."

I think of the hours that my brother and I spent at Dick Thesing's Implement Shop when Dad would help put machinery together in his spare time. Thede Larson and Albert Banghart were always there too.

Trailing Dad like a couple of shadows probably gave us access to many places other kids our age didn't get to see. We saw every sale barn from York to Grand Island. We visited places like Burgason's Machine Shop in Stromsburg and the flour mill at Thayer. Dad took wheat to the mill to be traded for flour. We went where Dad went as Mom was sick so much of the time. I remember at Osceola where we always visited two of Dad's pals, Robert and Dewey Sigler. Robert and Dad usually talked car deals as Siglers had a Ford Garage.

Another attraction at Grandpa Stevens' was Old Colonel, the tame old white horse that all of us liked to ride. I recall one time Dad bought a male hog from a Mr. Scheapler (I don't remember the first name). Anyway Dad had this old Model T truck with just a grain box on it. I couldn't have been more than 10 years old. The hog started to jump out the box so Dad had to get back there and hold the hog while I drove home. At that age I hadn't had too much experience driving so it was a long trip home at about 3 miles an hour. I wonder how Dad stood it.

T. J. Nelson's little two wheeled cart always fascinated Gerald and me. He would meet the trains with it and wheel the mail back to the post office.

I was always anxious for Polk's Celebration Days to come and I still am. Dr. Westfall and Hugh McGaffin came each year dressed up as man and wife for the parade. Doc, who was quite heavy-set was the man and Mac (as everyone called him) was the woman. Everyone got in the parade with their horses, dogs, geese or whatever they had.

At Christmas time Santa Claus always came to town on the motor. Boy! he really passed out big sacks of candy in those days.

I remember the free movies on Saturday nights and going to the Viking theatre where Fred Allison and a group he joined put on stage shows. I recall that old fire cart, two-wheeled and a hose wound around the axle. At Nieman's store (where Sundberg's Hardware is now located) Dad bought Gerald and me our first suits. Quite an event!

David F. Anderson had a grocery store and we got a big sack of free candy there when we bought groceries. Gerald always wanted licorice pipes instead of candy. George Mitchell had a cream station on the west side. He always whittled out little animals and toys out of wood for us boys. I recall Doctor C.R. Peterson pulling a tooth for me. They didn't have anything to deaden teeth in those days, but when the job was done, he handed me a nickel.

East of Hokenson Hotel was Mr. Jerner's blacksmith shop. This was an interesting place for us boys when Dad had to have repairs made. Sometimes Mr. Jerner would let Gerald and me turn the wheel which ran the fan for his forge. I enjoyed going into J.E. McDaniels tire shop to see all the junk he had around.

I hate to think of the time when I first started to school and Grandma had to go and stay with me a while.

In 1930 Grandpa, Dad and I went to see Uncle Ed Stevens out at Lodgepole, Nebraska. In those days the good roads were gravel and the side roads were trails. Uncle Ed's son, Stanley and I spent most of the time drowning out ground squirrels. I saw my first prairie dog out there. Dad shot a few, but as soon as he did others would drag the dead one in the hole. Owls and snakes shared the same holes, so I stayed my distance.

Grandpa Stevens' mustache is a vivid memory to me. He even had a mustache cup. Grandma didn't like that mustache. So one day when she was gone, he shaved it

off and surprised us all.

Grandpa, Dad, Uncles Paul and Arlo used to drive the cattle to a pasture up by the Platte River each spring. Gerald and I looked forward to that day as we got to miss school and go along. I remember Howard Hill north of Polk. I suppose it is but a bump in the road now, but I recall if it rained, "Model T's" had a bad time getting up that hill.

Corn was so cheap in 1934 (8 or 9¢ a bu.) that we burned corn in place of buying coal. It made a roaring fire.

Polk has changed a lot since, the business places decreased, new houses have increased, but still Polk is home to me.

Robert Stevens was married to Elaine Lindburg, who died following an automobile accident in 1948. They had one daughter, Susan (Ammon). Later Robert married Marjorie Dahlin. Seven children were born to them, Gregory, Douglas, Sheryl, Mark, Deborah and twins, Barbara and Beverly. They have 4 grandchildren.

FORMER POLK FOLK WRITE

Robert Stromberg of Washington, D.C.

I was born in 1909 on a farm six miles north of the section corner one half mile east of Polk. When I say "born on a farm" it means just that because at the time of my birth and for 30 or more years thereafter all babies in Polk county were delivered in their homes. A fairly good percent of babies survived although there were no baby formulas and the cow's milk was unpasteurized and from cows that had not been tested for tuberculosis. The tuberculosis tests for cows were made compulsory in Nebraska in about the mid 20's.

Maybe our health in farm homes benefited from having no central heating. We slept mostly in totally unheated rooms except for a little heat that rose from the dining room (the "parlor" was always closed off and unheated unheated unless we had important company) through a ventilator in the ceiling to the sleeping room above. Of course, we also undressed and dressed downstairs beside the faithful "base burner" (hard coal) or heating stove (soft coal, wood, corn cobs or what have you such as corn on the cob one year when early frost prevented the corn from maturing). The washable clothing we wore and the bed sheets we slept on were very fresh too, particularly in winter when they were "freeze dried" because they were frozen hard as boards by the time they were hung on the outdoor lines. As you might guess we did not bathe very often without indoor plumbing and little heat in winter. That might have been healthy too, even though having its disadvantages.

We had a magneto type "wind up" phone and I believe most farmers had phones. There were not as many automobiles although at an early date my family had a two cylinder Reo with the engine under the front seat and cranked from the side. I remember going to Grand Island with my parents about 1916 (not in the Reo though), to see the Ringling Bros. circus. The sights of the circus were not the most memorable to me, however. The remembered-to-this-day things were a negro (the first black man I had ever seen and did not dream they existed) seen on the street and a cement pavement the last mile on highway 30 entering Grand Island from the east. The pavement was about the same kind as is in Polk today but Polk got that about 1920 and it was unthinkable that materials could be found and processed in quantities enough to pave roads between towns.

By the time I entered Polk high school in 1920 our family lived two miles southeast of Polk. The mile our home was on in about the middle was, of course, dirt road and it was a great catcher of snow drifts. This led to almost impossible driving conditions for cars but they tried anyway and many became impossibly mired down. It was my job, night or day, to harness one or two horses, find a singletree or doubletree and a chain and go out and pull them out. These events were the source sometimes of very welcome cash spending money, something many kids, even in high school, saw little of.

Your History books tell you that the great depression was ushered in by the stock market crash of November 1929. The fact is the Nebraska agriculture was depressed many years before that. Polk had a total of three banks when the Citizens State Bank commenced business about 1920. By about 1928 both the Farmers State Bank and the Bank of Polk had failed with heavy losses to depositors because the Nebraska State Bank Deposit Insurance Fund, first in the nation, had already gone broke. The present national insurance of bank and savings and loan deposits did not commence until the mid 30's.

Speaking of the Bank of Polk reminds me that in 1920-21 there were not over two or three radio receivers in all the Polk area. One was owned and operated (operation took a good deal of knowledge adjusting various knobs by the thickness of a hair and testing the charge carried by the dry cell and storage battery power supply to get enough volume to bring in speech or music to the single pair of earphones) by a crippled boy in my class, Earl Cole, who had a contract with the Bank of Polk to get the grain and livestock markets over radio at 1 p.m. each day which would be posted on the wall at the bank. I had standing permission from school to be late returning after lunch in order that I could pull Earl on his wagon to his home and radio, then to the bank and then to school.

I mentioned earlier how babies were all delivered at home and fed what was available and still lived to look back at their hardships. I think of another remarkable case of survival after an accident. A boy about age 14 (a neighbor of ours) with others in early 1918 was hunting on the Platte river. He was walking on ice and it began breaking under him. To save himself he slid the 12 gauge shotgun he was carrying away from him on the ice. The trigger caught on a frozen twig and he got the full force of the shell blast through his leg between the knee and the thigh making a hole entirely through the leg that a man could put his fist through. There were no antibiotics then and the treatment was all by a general

practitioner in the home. That boy (LeRoy Johnson) survived and lives in Osceola today.

The above paragraphs relate to the period between my birth and when I left Polk in 1927 to seek my fortune in the outside world. My entire working life (other than helping my father three years on the farm) of 46 years (I retired in 1973) was spent in the service of Uncle Sam, mostly in Washington, D.C., but also in New York City from late 1935 to early 1937 and in San Francisco for a year 1941-42 (my military service in WW II was also in the San Francisco area).

Service with the U.S. government in Washington provided a good opportunity to acquire an education beyond high school in spare time night (or morning) school. I studied accountancy and earned the degree of certified public accountant and then studied law and was admitted practice before the various levels of courts including the U.S. Supreme Court where the Honorable Charles Evans Hughes was at the time still Chief Justice so he was the courtly white bearded gentleman who invited me to step forward and be sworn in. It will be recalled that Mr. Hughes is the man who went to bed on election night in 1916 thinking he had been elected President of the United States but awakened the next morning to learn he had not carried California as expected and so was merely an also ran (he had overlooked shaking hands with one important republican politician in California while campaigning there and that was the penalty).

As in all jobs my work over the years was mostly, it seemed, pretty routine. I served for 20 years with a national committee of accountants expert in accounting and financial statements of public utilities. I testified before the U.S. Tax Court in a case that finally was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. I presented testimony concerning street car and bus fares in Washington, D.C. which the U.S. Court of Appeals there found supported the decision reached.

The most glamorous of my government assignments have involved foreign governments. I advised the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in 1959 concerning telephone company accounting and in 1965 was assigned to work with the government of South Korea concerning the accounts of its telephone system to see if it qualified for a loan from the U.S. (I found it did)..International conferences on communications were my assignments in Paris in 1949, six times in Geneva, Switzerland between 1969 and 1973, Ascunsion, Paraguay in 1969 and Montreal, Canada in 1970. Particularly gratifying, and as it turned out, my farewell to government service, was the World Administrative Conference on Telegraph and Telephone of 1973 where I was a principal U.S. spokesman and where we succeeded in substantially revising two treaties on communications which will be coming before the U.S. Senate for ratification sometime in 1974.

Mrs. Vern Walden of Valley, the former Alice Nelson, who operated a cafe in Polk following the death of her husband Ed Nelson, who was a barber here, writes of childhood memories of Polk. Her father, Joe McClure, early teacher, was one of Polk's finest citizens when their family lived at Polk.

"I had always lived in very small houses the first five years of my life, but the year that the new town of Polk started, we moved to the house where the Don Hanquists now live. It belonged then to Victor Anderson of Stromsburg.

I truly thought it the most wonderful house, -I thought I was living in a castle.

When action started on the new town, my mother fed all the laboring men. Our table extended to 12 ft. and she hired Emma Warnick to help her. Among the boarders were Wesley Wilson and his brother-in-law, Oliver T. Reedy, who surveyed and laid out the lots.

Occasionally Mr. Wilson would bring along his son James, and he being my age we would play in our yard, or ride with his father to the town site. Getting to ride in a car at age 5, when one was only used to horse and buggy riding was a big thrill. The car had no top, stick steering, I recall.

The railroad was being extended from Stromsburg, so there were many Japs working on that. They came to our house to buy chickens, milk and eggs. I recall the first time they came, "you no sell chickie," they said. They'd also bring their rice in a half bushel measure and wash and wash it in the horse tank water. My father tried to explain it wasn't clean, and to use the clear water coming out of the windmill pump, but they wouldn't listen to him."

Mrs. Walden tells of the family having the first telephone switchboard and of other memories of Polk which are included in data of former business places.

Verbena Brauer Wurtz of Golden, Colorado writes, "I wonder if my love for old dishes doesn't date back to my childhood. I clearly recall mother cleaning out the china cupboard and with each piece washed and carefully handled, telling of great aunt or relative or friend who gave it to her. I recall the lovely marble top table, the old cane bottom rocker, the walnut organ, the cherry wood bed in which I had to climb up on to a chair before sinking into the feather bed mattress.

There was too the crystal prism around the circular globe of the kerosene lamp which had to come down by a chain, lit and put up again (attached to the ceiling), the blue hobnail dish that was put into a pail to lower into the cistern on hot days — to keep the butter firm. Even the crocheted cover on the "under the bed vessel" had a closet all its own off the clothes closet. I have a candy dish from the Dornburgh home, a cup from the Bay home, butterdish from the S. P. Benson home, goblet from the A. G. Glad home, a dish from Lena Wurtz, as well as Brauer keepsakes.

I REMEMBER PAPA'S LAP ROBE

I remember papa's lap robe, a grey one, made from the hide of faithful Colonel, our horse who allowed us to climb on him, walk under him, hit him or pet him, he just stood still. We loved him. We also had a lap robe made from a roan horse that died.

The heavy blanket lined (in red and black) robe was warm. We used it in the buggy, or sometimes when we had the fun of a sleigh ride.

The hide after being taken from the animal was salted (to preserve) and sent away to be made up into a heavy warm cover for cold weather. They were carefully aired and stored in summer, sometimes used on cold nights in winter as a bed cover. It was heavy, it was bulky. I have seen a few lately used on the floor as a rug in a trophy or game room.

But as a child, I recall, if we took the lap robe to cover us up and be tucked in and around, we kept nice and warm.

--------Stevens Children

NOSTALGIC MEMORIES

That mail order catalogue - it was a constant companion, leafed through and worn before the next year's edition came out.

The price of any contemplated purchase was looked up in the catalogue.

Women went window shopping by looking in the catalogue. When the new copy arrived, it was the focal point of attention for days. Children's letters to Santa Claus were inspired by pictures they saw in the catalogue.

For sewing hints and styles, women "looked it up" in the catalogue. The most common answer to "My, you have a pretty dress, where did you get it?" was,"Oh, I sent for it."

When rural routes were set up, farmers put up larger mail boxes to accommodate mail order packages.

Eighty Years
by M.F. Smith - written in 1934

The days and months of eighty years, - Have come and gone with me.
Many in joy, a few in tears, - my discipline, you see.

I've strolled the banks of the river of love, and traced its winding ways,
It seems to rise somewhere above, - Then flows on and away always.

O, the harvest is white near the river shores, - Where the higher value is found,
But reapers are few for the spiritual stores - That ever and endless abound.

Oh, it's grand to live midst a group of friends, In countryside or in town,
Where good is near, - it shapes our ends, - While the angels are writing it down.

It's the plugging away that will win you the day.
So don't be a piker, ol' pard!
Just call on your grit; it's so easy to quit;
It's the keeping-your-chin-up that's hard.
It's easy to cry that you're beaten--and die;
It's easy to crawfish and crawl;
But to fight and fight when hope's out of sight--
Why, that's the best game of all!
And although you come out of each grueling bout
All broken and beaten and scarred,
Just have one more try--it's so easy to die,
It's the keeping-on-living that's hard.

Eighty One
by M.F. Smith in 1935

One more birthday now has come, this is number eight-one,
And I see the evening shadows growing long, very long.
But new duties still appear, there's yet service for me here,
As I sometimes hum a tune of some olf song, - rythmic song,

I would love to say hello to all the friends I known,
But some, though not forgotten, foil my reach, mortal reach,
As I follow on a pace, in some attempt at grace,
With greetings in my heart beyond my speech, - lowly speech.
It is ever also grand to clasp a friendly hand,
And look into the window of his soul, or her soul.
There I glimpse supernal fire, reflected light from purpose higher,
Than anyone can form from worldly goal, fading goal.

Birthday greetings may be brief, - yet, they yield a fond relief
As we plod along our trials of tangled ways, mystic ways
To carp or cavil I would shun, in good form, - it isn't done,
We shall learn life's lessons from the harvests of our days, - passing days.

POLK BEAN DAYS

For 15 years, Polk observed an annual Bean Day, held in September which commemorated the birth of our village.

Beans were cooked in black kettles - the kind that in days of yore, homemade soap was made in, over an open fire in the back yard.

About 170 lbs. of beans were cooked about 6 hours in the village park over wood burning fires. Over 100 lbs. of ham was used to season the beans. Commercial Club members with long handled spoons stirred, added water, and seasoned.

The idea for Bean Day was given the Commercial Club by Neil McNaught, who says, "They did this in Kansas."

A Kid's Parade, a parade with floats made by church groups, businessmen and organizations were always held with prizes given for the best and all the kid participants receiving free rides at the carnival.

Home Talent Shows, bands, were enjoyed. Exhibits of various kinds, including the Garden Club's fine exhibit of flowers, fruit and vegetables and afternoon "tea."

The Polk Grain Company and Polk Co-op Grain Company got in the act. They barbecued a beef and passed out free sandwiches. (650 lbs. of meat used)

Polk's "Bean Days" of 1957 followed the 50th Anniversary of the town. It was a special two day programing event.

A building was cleaned to show antiques - all entries carefully labeled as to whom they belonged.

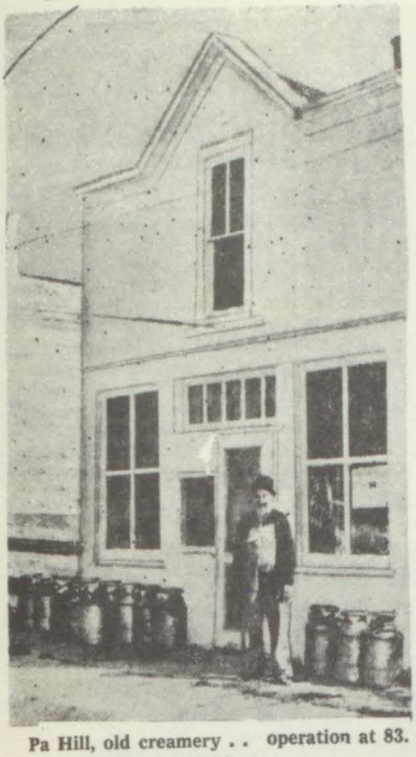
The men of the town had been growing whiskers, so there was a whisker judging contest. The ladies wore long, old fashioned cotton dresses with sunbonnets and paraded around. All business places had store window exhibits depicting "through the years" and "Peddler's Permits" were sold. 95 entries were in the parade.

James Wilson, whose father was one of the founders of Polk talked as did Congressman R.D. Harrison.

Picnics in the park were enjoyed by family groups. An old-fashioned style show was presented.

Old timers came from near and far to visit, to eat, meet and greet. The crowd was estimated at 3,000 in 1957.

Polk History to Be Feature at Celebration This Week



Pa Hill, old creamery . . operation at 83.

The World-Herald News Service.

By Lloyd Hahn

Polk, Neb. — Representative R. D. Harrison of Norfolk and James Wilson of Polk will be guest speakers at Polk's fiftieth anniversary celebration Wednesday.

Mr. Harrison will speak on Congressional activities pertinent to the Third District.

Mr. Wilson will talk about Polk. His father, Wesley Wilson, was president of the company which founded this village which now numbers about five hundred.

Mr. Wilson has returned to Polk to live after traveling in the United States and Europe.

Marvin Fredricksn, Polk Mayor, will be master of ceremonies for the celebration which will start with a children's parade at 11 a. m. Other events will include band concerts, boxing exhibition, water fight and dances each evening.

Albert Sundberg, who will give the town history, operated a hardware store, the only business among the town's firms which has a half-century of continous operation. The oldest business man in years is Wayne (Pa) Hill, 83, who operates a produce company.

Mrs. H. G. Brauer, 81, believed to the the oldest continuous resident, said her husband built the first house in town and laid some of the first sidewalks.

Bean Days

Celebration Is Huge Success

A crowd estimated at better than 3000 helped Polk celebrate the 50th Anniversary Sept. 18 and 19.

The ladies in their sunbonnets and long dress costumes make a pleasant picture that the Progress is happy to print. Left to right: back row; Mrs. Grant Willits, Mrs. Joe Ehn, Mrs. Dean Myers, Mrs. Hartwig Flodman, Mrs. Virgil Flodman, Mrs. Minnie Larson, Mrs. S. J. Harless, Mrs Anna Ehn, Mrs. Pearl Jack, Mrs. Chauncey Gustafson, Mrs. Seth Piper. Middle row; Mrs. LaVaughn Adelson, Mrs. Hazel Johnson, Mrs. Sam Wall, Mrs. Glen Babcock, Mrs. O. E. Joses. Mrs Lloyd Stromberg, Mrs. Hannah Hahn, Mrs. Sid Crow. Front row; Mrs. W. C. Blase, Mrs. Bob Shostrom, Mrs Dorrell Shostrom and son Rusty, Mrs. John Rau, Mrs. Lavar Sandell, Mrs. Arnold Neuhaus, Mrs. Philip Meline, Mrs. Merle Stromberg, Mrs. Walter Green, Mrs. Robert Baack, Mrs. Wendell Shaw.

The members of the whisker club put their best face forward for their pcture during Polk's celebration. This picture can be obtained at either grocery store for $1.50.

Left to right: back row; C. Marvin Fredrickson, Aug. Nelson, Bill Stromberg, Roy Ehn, Chas. Smith, Lavar Sndell, Joe Ehn, Don Scheapler, Burdette Flodman, Dave Ekdahl, Dean Ostberg, Floyd Lyle, Jim Wilson, Jim Lindburg, Jerry Ruzicka, Elwood Sandell, Don Ostberg, Leslie Adelson, Robert Baack, "Shorty" Widga,. 3rd row, Viv Larson, Horace Stevens, Jim Brazdaa, Jr., Wallace Sandell, Chas. Norquist, Virgil Flodman Bob Shostrom, "Pa" Hill, Dean Myers, Max Jones. 2nd row; Ivan Johnson, Bill Blase, Elmer Warnick, Henry Werth, Dorrel Shostrom, Dwayne Miller, Vern Jones, Ralph Kahler, Sr. Jake Harding, Jim Brazda, Sr., Hartwig Flodman, John Rau, Noel Kealiher, Roy Glasser, Jr., Bill Lavelle. Front row; Hilding Dahlin, Vernon Cline, Philip Meline, Harold Cramer, Lowell Bills, Henry Kisler, Wayne Glasser, Dick Sealey, Richard Widga, LaVaughn Adelson, Don Widga, Wendell Shaw.

POLK (NEBR.) PROGRESS
SEPTEMBER 9, 1971

Bean Day Pictures

Polk Bean Days For 1968 Drew Large Crowds For Beans, Barbecued Beef And Enjoyment

Mrs Dean Myers and Mrs Lloyd Widga are wrapping the beef in preparation for the barbecue pit, Friday afternoon.

Due to the fine work by the various committees of the Polk Community Club, plus a boost from the weatherman, the 1968 edition of Polk Bean Days was a decided success.

The program of dances by Indians from the Kearney School, the dancers from Carolyn Anderson's dance classes, and a dance by some unknown, but possibly local talent?, some of the figures had a familiar shape, was probably the greatest crowd pleaser when it was given Saturday night. Mrs. Rolland (Elaine) Stromberg m.c.'d the numbers. She also gave an illustrated lecture about keeping Polk on the map.

The Friday night ball game between the young girls and the old married ladies, proved that marriage has an aging effect. The young girls had little trouble winning by an umpteenth margin.

According to receipts 178 teen agers attended the teen dance afterwards in the Polk Community Hall.

There were 78 entries, floats and children, in the Saturday morning parade.

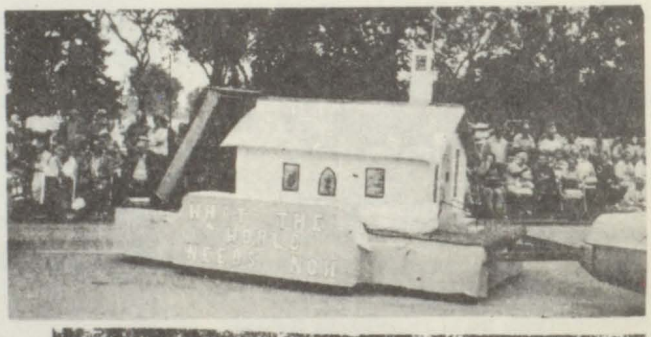
Polk Grain Co., Farmers Coop Grain and Citizens State Bank financed the 650 lbs. of barbecued beef and the Polk Community Club furnished the pots of beans and ham and coffee.

Bean Day Pictures

POLK (NEBR.) PROGRESS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1968

Anything goes on a booster trip and did. Hippy. Lippy and Yippy are a good reason why the Progress editor is glad booster trips come only once a year.

Bean Day Pictures

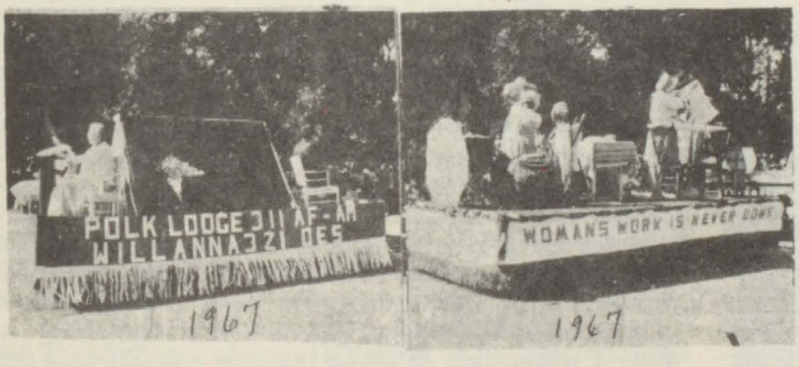


MORE THAN 2,000 persons ate bean and ham soup and barbecued beef sandwiches at the Polk park Saturday. Keeping the bean pots boiling were apron-clad, N.E. McNaught, Jim Brazda, Irving Wize, Lyle Dornburgh and Gary Stromberg, son of Lloyd Stromberg, general chairman, from left. Butch Mills, left. Thirty-five pounds of beans, 15 pounds of ham, a cup each of brown sugar and salt, one large onion and a bottle of liquid smoke went into each of the seven bean pots. The beans started cooking at 8 a.m. over a cob fire after being soaked through the night. This is the sixth year the townspeople have hosted the Polk community. 1965

BEAN PORRIDGE HOT – seven kettles full. 1965

Polk Bean Days

Lifting the barbecued beef from the pit is Harold Anderson and Arlo Stevens is ready for it. Looking on are Harvey Sundberg, Paul Stevens and Verland Widga. Polk Bean Day. 1969 Photo by Boardman



LEGS – and faces...Sidewalk parade spectators. 1965

POLK AT THE AGE OF THREE

Taken from Polk Progress of Sept. 30, 1909

2 good substantial Banks, 2 large Lumber Yards, 2 good Implement Houses, 3 large Elevators, 3 good Hardware Stores, 1 heavy Furniture Stock, 6 General Merchandise and Grocery Stores many of which carry a large clothing stock. 1 Restaurant and Rooming House, 1 Restaurant, 1 Photograph Gallery, 1 Jewelry Store, 1 Printing Office, 1 large Double Livery and Feed Barn, 1 Fine large Auto Garage, 1 Drug Store, 2 Blacksmith Shops, 2 Cement Block Factories, 1 Planing and Woodwork Shop, 2 good Dray Lines, 1 Piano Store, 1 Feed Mill and Feed Store, 2 Cream and Produce Stations, 1 Wallpaper and Paint Store, 2 Shoe Repair Shops, 1 three chair Barber Shop, 1 Suitatorium, 2 Millinery and Dressmaking Shops, 4 Coal Yards, 2 Doctors, 2 Dentists, 1 Post Office, 2 Rural Routes for Mail Delivery, 1 fine up-to-date Butcher Shop, 1 nice, neat Depot, 4 good Churches, 1 $8,000 High School Building, 1 Real Estate Firm, 1 well uniformed Cornet Band, 1 Commercial Club, 1 Fire Department, 1 Waterwork System, 2 Stock buying firms. The above businesses are all new carrying large stocks. Our dwelling houses are practically all new and built on modern plans.

We have fully 400 inhabitants at present and others moving in constantly. We shall be glad to welcome you to the best little town in the State.

A. C. Hammond - Editor

POLK BAKERIES

Several cafes and a few individuals have sold bread and pastries in former years, but as near as we can recollect Polk has had only two different bakeries. One the Strassberg bakery, which made and sold a full line of delicious breads, rolls, cakes and other pastries. Bread was not sliced or individually wrapped and sold for 10¢ a loaf, cookies were 15¢ a dozen and pies 25¢. This bakery operated in 1922. Although it was "short-lived," it was well patronized and greatly benefited Polk.

In about 1927, the Jensen Bakery was started in a building south of Recknors Shop. Their products were excellent. Neither place had lunch counters in their stores.

Now baked goods are brought in by truck to our grocery store.

BLACKSMITH SHOPS

"Under the spreading chestnut tree
The Village smithy stands" - Longfellow.

Blacksmiths were always busy in early days, sharpening plowshares, repairing buggies, wagons, shoeing horses, and fixing broken machinery. The old blacksmith shop located a block east of the present Hotel Hokenson was always busy. C.E. Jerner was probably the first "smithy" to locate in Polk coming in 1907 and continuing till his retirement. Later he was joined by his son-in-law, Wilbur Whitacre who also remained in this business for many years. Among other Polk blacksmiths are Louis Kahler, Ed Recknor, Emil Englund, Irvin Wize, Robert Merchant, and Claude Green.

A nearly ad in the Progress said Louis Kahler offered 5 lbs. of axle grease free to anyone bringing in their disc to be sharpened between January 1st and March 1st, 1910.

School children would like to stand in front of the old "smithy" watching the flaming forge, the red glow of the anvil in the fire, or watching the blacksmith in his large black leather apron pounding the white hot metal into shape. It was fascinating to watch the horses as they lifted one foot at a time to have a "metal horseshoe" pounded to the hoof to prevent them from slipping on the ice. What fun it was to collect some discarded horseshoes for a game of horseshoes later on. This was a favorite sport for all ages in early days. There was a spot for playing horseshoe south of the Jerner blacksmith and horseshoe tournaments were held here.

THIS 'N THAT STORE

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Tarr, in 1973 opened a store of new and used appliances, antiques, furniture and various other things in the former Alfred Store.

They held an auction in 1974 and moved back to Omaha.

THE NATIONAL HOME GUARD OF POLK, NEBRASKA

During World War I Polk had an active National Home Guard Unit. This unit was composed of farmers and business men and organized under Nebraska military regulations. Andy Sundberg as the captain, drilled these Home Guards. There were approximately 35 members and regular drills were held on the school grounds. They had uniforms, bought by the individual members and the members became very efficient in marching and drills. They disbanded at the close of the war.

FORMER POLK BANKS

Polk formerly had three banks, ... The First National Bank, the Bank of Polk and the Citizen's State Bank. Only the Citizen's State Bank functions today.

The First National Bank was established in 1907 in the newly built First National Bank Building where the post office is located. Bank officials were James Wesley Wilson, Calmer C. McCune and Charles Niermann. In 1909 their capital stock was $25,000. Later this bank became the Farmer's State Bank. John A. Falk was cashier here for many years.

The Bank of Polk was located a few doors north of the First National Bank Building. Part of this building is now the Polk Medical Clinic. Joshua Cox, was president, Morace Smith - vice-president, Raymond L. Cox - cashier, and Titus Lundberg - assistant cashier. Their capital stock as given in a 1909 Polk Progress was $20,000.

The Citizen's State originated in 1919. A write up of this bank is included under present establishments.

CARPENTERS

After the lots were sold in Polk the sound of the saw and hammer was heard early and late when the weather was favorable. Carpenters were much in demand and did a booming business from 1906 to 1914 around Polk. It is almost impossible to imagine how a small town could grow in it's first two years. Early houses and buildings were moved in from Arborville, Nebraska, a small town

south of Polk and also from the small settlement of Stark, Nebraska, located 4 miles west of Polk.

John J. Rodgers was an early Polk carpenter. In an old letter written by Mr. Rodgers to his cousin in Elwood, Nebraska and dated January 15, 1908, he states he had only missed 14 days in the past nine months. He was making $2.50 a day which was a very good wage in those days. He stated in this time he had helped build seven new homes, two new stores, one restaurant and two large barns. He had just helped with another building, the Tewell Brothers Grocery and Hardware store which was a brick one, 50 ft. by 70 ft. with 14 ft. ceiling. The store was to be for groceries and hardware. It was located on West Main Street where the Nebraska Gas office is located. Mr. Rodgers wrote that it was one of the finest buildings in Polk County. This same letter told of a severe hail storm north of Polk in 1908 and crops around the Will and Thede Stevens farms were a total loss.

Some of the other carpenters through the years have been Thede and Ed Larson and their cousin Henning Larson, Will Garling, Virgil and Henry Kisler, Carl Thoren, Jack and Alec Johnson, Andy and Henry Sundberg, Forrest Sedan, Charles Stettner, David Dornburgh, Elmer Cash, Isaac Conger.

There have been many new homes built in Polk the last few years - a fact that proves that Polk is growing. These homes are Gerald Stevens, Edward Saylor, Mervin Samuels, Paul Strand, Mrs. Lloyd Hanquist, Glenn Babcock, Ewalt Klingsborn, Henry Blase, Maurice Lindburg, Paul Wagner, Gilbert Lampshire, and Donald Doremus. Roy Glassers have built two.

There are lovely mobile homes in Polk owned by Harold Lentz, Milfred Johnson, Phillip Meline, Fay Ray, and Blanche Fitz.

A new house for a Polk teacher has been built by the school.

CERAMIC SHOP

Mrs. Clifford Cramer operated a Ceramic and gift shop in Polk in the John Adelson Building (by City Cafe) for several years.

CREAM AND PRODUCE STATIONS

A news item in the state paper in 1910 said that Polk, Nebraska shipped out more produce - cream, eggs, chickens - than any other town in Nebraska of it's size and age. Cream and produce stations were plentiful in Polk in the early days. In those days farmers milked a lot of cows, and had flocks of chickens of 100 to 300.

Amel G. Lindburg was perhaps the first cream station manager. Cream was brought to town in large 5 and 10 gallon containers and poured into the other cans to be sent by train to Omaha or Lincoln. It was tested and the price paid was for each lb. of butterfat. Cases containing 12 doz. eggs or even the large 30 doz. cases were usually in the buggy when the farmer or his wife came to town. The produce man would sell out the eggs to some local Polkites at a 2 to 3 cent per dozen profit. The rest would be shipped out. Usually the cream was sour, but should sweet cream come in, it would soon be sold out by the quart. Polk markets in 1909 were: Cream 24¢ per lb. butterfat, Chickens 8¢ a lb., and eggs 20¢ a dozen.

Some of the produce station operators have been Joseph C. McClure, George Mitchell, A.L. Knerr, Grant Cypher, E.J. Youmans, Wayne "Pa" Hill, son Glenn, H.G. Johnson, E. R. Nelson, John Davis, J.M. Bay, Raymond Peterson, Walter Green, Mrs. Clifford Branting, Mrs. Abbie Green.

In 1928 the Farmers' Produce Association was organized with 30 members. The first board members were A.H. Samuels, president, Charles Flick, Vice Pres., Maurice G. Lindburg, Sec., and Paul Wurtz, Treas. Homer Branting was the first manager and served till 1931. Other managers were Lloyd Kroger, Charles Williamson, Oscar E. Johnson and Vern Jones.

The last existing produce station in Polk and probably the last one in Polk County was owned and operated by Mrs. Abbie Green. It, too, went out of business several years ago.

POLK DENTISTS

It has probably been over 25 years since Polk had its last dentist, Dr. Dana Westfall, a Polk High graduate and son of an early Polk doctor, Dr. David H. Westfall. Polk's first dentist in 1907 was Dr. G. F. Eades who had an office above the Victor Anderson store. Dr. Roy Ludden was here in 1909. Dr. C. Raymond Peterson, a native of Stromsburg served the Polk community for many years. He was a brother of Polk's veterinarian, Dr. Ralph R. Peterson. Dr. Guy L. Spencer was also a dentist here in 1917 and 1918. Both Dr. Peterson and Dr. Spencer had their offices in the First National Bank building. As near as we can ascertain Polk has had only five dentists.

Some Polk High graduates who are practicing denistry elsewhere are Dr. Arthur A. Wurtz of Montrose, California; Dr. Charles Lytle of Washington D. C.; Dr. Doyle Gustafson of Omaha; Nebraska; Dr. Doyle Sundberg of Sterling, Colorado and Dr. Raymond Peterson, Jr. of Santa Ana, California.

DRAYS

Some may recall the early days of Polk when the dray wagon with the big team of horses was a common sight on the streets. Merchandise and supplies came in by railroad and the drayman would meet the train, help unload the baggage, crates, and boxes, and deliver them about town. Coal, too, was delivered from coal cars to basements of Polk homes. The drayman was an essential part of the early community. Most anyone who traveled very far took a trunk of clothes - even students going to school, as they probably only got home once or twice during the school year.

W.F. Gorin had one of the earliest drays and advertised in the Progress with "Dray and Baggage Line anywhere in Polk." Freeman Hahn called his dray "The City Express and Dray Line." Zenas F. Myers was also an early drayman. Charles Aldrich, E. Sloan, Harry Murphy, H.B. Johnson, Charles Wright, Ray Phillips, Henry Sundberg, and M.O. Johnson worked at the dray business.

Prices were quite reasonable and one could deliver a trunk from depot to a house in Polk for around a quarter.

DRUGGISTS & SUNDRIES

Early Polk Progress papers give Tony Alphin and R. Tooley as the first druggists in Polk. Later were A.K. Crow, C. J. Jack, Jim Felton and Frank Davis. A.K. Crow's drug store was located on east Main Street to the north while, the latter three were located in the building formerly occupied by Anna Guthrie.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Frank Davis sold out the store supplies to Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Kisler. The Kislers were not pharmacists, so added a line of sundries. Mr. Kisler died in 1957 and Mrs. Kisler continued in business until 1974. The building was owned by the C.G. Jack family until 1974 when it was sold to Edward Saylor.

DRY CLEANERS, SUITATORIUM & DRESSMAKING SHOPS

Polk had a suitatorium shop owned by Fred Cummings and located above the Victor Anderson Building in 1909. This Mr. Cummings made suits to order, as well as cleaning suits and clothes. Price for cleaning and pressing a suit was $1.00. He advertised suits for $22.00 made to measure of first grade woolen material. A tailor and dressmaking shop operated by Mr. and Mrs. Arvine was on the east side of the street.

Other dressmakers through the years have been Mrs. Coral Sealey Rodgers, Mrs. Anna Wurtz, Mrs. Ellen Larson, Mrs. A. E. Swanson, Mrs. John Rau, Mrs. James T. Sealey and Mrs. Margaret (Graves) Jones.

Van Cleve started a dry cleaning establishment which was sold out to Alva Carter, son of Polk Methodist Minister, Rev. George Carter.

DRY GOODS STORES

Early Polk had as many as five places where one could buy dry goods, such as dress goods and clothing. These were Dorsey's, Tewell's, Tenney's, Curtis and Ramage, Burke and Thomas and Lind and Darrow. These also had groceries.

The last general merchandise store in Polk was the Home Service Store, owned and operated by Olof A. Alfred who came to Nebraska in 1913. He first bought an interest with Charles Lind and sold groceries and dry goods in the store formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Nieman. Then later he bought the Home Service, where his wife and he maintained the business till his retirement.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Green started an appliance and merchandise store on Nov. 24, 1945 and continued for many years. They were located on the west side of Main Street which now houses the Natural Gas Co.

At one time the Farmer's Union had a general merchandise and grocery store on the east side of Main Street.

Ed Cohagen also had a general store on the west side for a few years.

POLK FLOUR MILL

Polk once had a thriving mill to produce flour for making "the staff of life." Arthur Beatty was the owner and operator of this mill which was located a block east of the north end of Main Street. This mill originally was the old Cooper Methodist Church building, which had been moved there. Mr. Beatty converted it into a flour mill and did a thriving business. The Julius Peterson family later bought the mill and sold flour for years. Early farmers would bring their wheat to the mill by the wagonload and exchanged for 50 lb. sacks of flour. The muslin flour sacks were used for underwear or dish towels.

When the Peterson family moved away the mill was abandoned and later burned down.

FURNITURE STORES

Harlan Frazier established a furniture and undertaking business in the Victor Anderson building for a long time. He sold out to W.L. Cohagen and Clarence Rodine who maintained the business for a number of years. Later the building stood empty for a long while and eventually was torn down.

The Victor Anderson Furniture Store

The Victor Anderson Furniture Store building and the Bank of Polk, in a sunny view taken from the Main St. boulevard. The hitching posts are evident in this early Polk photo.

When Polk lots were sold, Victor Anderson, brother-in-law of Wesley Wilson and a former resident of the Polk locality, bought a lot on west Main Street half way between Leonard and Railway Avenues. He was among the first on the grounds, unloading lumber in a cornfield before the streets were really laid out. A wooden building 50 by 100 feet and two stories high was erected in late 1906 and stocked with hardware, furniture and undertaking supplies. Mr. Anderson owned a large furniture store in Stromsburg and this was a branch store. John Sjobloom, I.T. Samuelson and Alfred Gahn were interested in this Polk venture and the firm was known as the Victor Anderson Co. Later Victor Anderson's son, Edwin, took over the establishment and maintained the mortician's business until about 1925 when it was moved back to Stromsburg.

USED-TO-BE GARAGES, REPAIR AND GAS STATIONS

With no gravel roads cars needed repairs often and repair stations did a thriving business vulcanizing tires, fixing wheel chains, and mechanical repairing. At one time Polk had seven places where tires could be fixed and all sold gas. We were told that gasoline sold at about 18 to 25¢ a gallon. The station attendant would measure the amount of gasoline in the gas tank by inserting a short yard stick. One inch of gas on the stick meant you had a gallon of gas in the tank and thus they determined the amount they needed to put in. Gas tanks were under the front seat. Tires cost around $4.00 and inner tubes were $1.00. Cars had black oilcloth side curtains which were kept under the back seat and hooked on the sides of the car when it rained or snowed.

Some of the gasoline operators through the years have been Amel G. Lindburg, who operated perhaps the first gasoline station in Polk, located at south end of Main St., Nels Nyberg, Rodney J. Allison, Floyd Lytle, Clifford Cramer, and Neil McNaught. Arthur Gustafson had a repair shop and gasoline pump at his home a mile east of Polk.

Freeman J. Hahn and John Myers were among the first to have a garage in Polk opening for business in 1913 on the west side of Main Street. An advertisement in an early Progress issue gave the names of car owners, who had work done on their cars at the Hahn and Myers garage. These were an E.M.F. make car, owned by liveryman, Ed Stevens and was the first car in Polk owned by a local resident. One cylinder Cadillac, owned by Lou Aldrich; Model T car, owned by Mel Hill; Mitchell make

car, owned by Freeman Hahn; Eight Cylinder Douglas, owned by Amel G. Lindburg.

Each garage owner had the agency for an automobile salesmanship. Hahn and Myers had the Dodge franchise. Some garage owners through the years have been Lester Stark and Don Bauder (Ford Agency) Ralph Branting and Cypher Gustafson (Pontiac) Reeb Brothers - Harold and Henry (Ford), Arthur Gustafson and Myers (Chrysler), Arthur Whittemore and Dennis Mills (Chevrolet), Sodegren Garage (Ford), Johnson Brothers - Clarence and Donald (Chevrolet). Myers Brothers had a body and fender shop. Ralph Peterson had a tractor and repair shop in a building a block west of Main Street. Clifford and Ralph Branting had a garage on east Main Street and later Ralph did repair work at his home. F.O. Johnson had a garage in the former Fredrickson Implement Building and sold Willys-Knights. When some one bought a new car, it was a news item for the Polk Progress.

In 1974 there are four places in Polk where you can "gas up" your car. Polk Oil Co., Farmers Co-op, Phillips 66 Gas Stations and Johnson's Garage.

Present garages are: Shaw's Repair Service, Johnson Garage, Polk Oil Co. and Dick's Standard Service.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES

The last general merchandise store in Polk was operated by Olaf A. Alfreds who came here in 1913. He first bought an interest with Charles V. Lind and sold groceries and general merchandise in the store formerly owned by Burke and Thomas. Later Mr. Lind moved to Lincoln and Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Nieman became his partners. Later he sold to Niemans and established his own store two doors south of the Citizens' State Bank. He had a full line of dress goods, shoes, suits and general merchandise. This store sold out in about 1950.

Everett Green and wife started an appliance and merchandise store in 1945 and continued for many years. They were located on the west side of Main Street which now houses the Natural Gas Co.

C.P. Nelson of Stromsburg had a branch merchandise store in Polk with Glenn Lindburg, his son-in-law, as manager. They were located in the Burke and Thomas store.

The A.O. Monson Co. of Osceola had a branch store of general merchandise on the west side of Main Street. Later it was purchased and operated by Olof A. Alfreds for many years. After his retirement the merchandise was sold out and Brazda Implement Co. had a paint and supply store here with Doyle Hahn as manager. Today this building houses a miscellaneous store operated by Mr. & Mrs. Scott.

STORES

Six Grocery Stores in Early Polk - One in 1974.

Soon after the lots of Polk were sold, three grocery stores were moved from Arborville to Polk. These stores were all located on the south of west Main Street. They were owned by J.C. Tenney, J.C. Tewell and Dorseys. Grant and Ramage had a grocery and general merchandise store on the corner where the Citizens' State Bank is located. His slogan was "Shop at the little store on the corner". Bert Darrow and Charles Lind had a store on the east side selling groceries and general merchandise. Burke and Thomas built a large store which is now the Sundberg Hardware Company. They had an assortment of men and women's apparel shoes and also groceries in the back end of the store. At the front was a large, round, upholstered seat, black in color where patrons could sit and wait.

Tenneys and Dorseys also carried general merchandise. Grocers in early days exchanged supplies for eggs and home churned butter.

In the earliest issue of the Progress we noted Darrow and Lind had a large ad advertising groceries, shoes, ladies' combs, ladies; wrappers, veiling and laces. They took orders for men's suits. Flour was advertised for $1.15 per cwt. Sugar came in 100 lb. gunny sacks with white cloth inner sack. A sack could be purchased for around $3.00. Smaller amounts would be measured and sold out in paper bags. Coffee was always ground in a large coffee grinder at the store. One early ad showed coffee for 19¢ a lb. Most households had their own small coffee grinders and bought the coffee unground.
(picture here)

In 1908 a larger Dorsey store was built on the former location of the Fredrickson Implement Co. The Farmers' Union later had a general merchandise and grocery on the east side. David F. Anderson operated the Pure Food Grocery in 1928 and J.S. Stouffer was the owner in 1936. For a few years in the thirties Herbert Olson operated a grocery store known as the Food Center. This was located in the now Natural Gas Co. Building. At this time there were four grocery stores in Polk.

The former Kroger grocery store was Polk's first theater building. Later it became a department store with an opening connected with the present Stromberg store. It was afterwards purchased by the Farmer's Union and Charles Lind was in charge. In 1925 Preston J. Garten purchased and operated it for 18 years. It was named the Farmers' Store and had general merchandise on the south side of store and groceries to the north. I'm sure many people recall Mr. and Mrs. Garten's store as they always included a free sack of candy with the grocery orders.

In 1943 the Farmer's Store was purchased by Lloyd Kroger and continued until his death. Afterwards it was operated by his wife Ruth for many years. When she discontinued, the building stood empty until the Redman Plumbing purchased it.

Through the years Polk has had many different grocery store owners or operators. Among others not formerly mentioned were Lloyd Cole, Thede Larson, Charles Peterson, Ed Cohagen, Charles F. Becker, Dean Nelson, Amos Shafer, Ross Dorrance, Harry Schultz, W.F. Nieman.

Many of Polk's 1973 citizens can recall when Polk had three grocery stores - the Pure Food Grocery, south of the Citizen's State Bank and Kroger Grocery and Stromberg Grocery both on the east side.

Today Mr. and Mrs. Homer McDonald own the only grocery store in Polk.

CHICKEN HATCHERY

Dr. Ralph L. Peterson, Polk Veterinarian, and his wife, Lydia, had a chicken industry on the lots back of his home in south Polk. Eggs were hatched and hundreds of baby chicks were sold each spring. He had many varieties of geese, ducks, or turkeys and even a pair of peacocks. These exotic birds often brought out-of-town viewers.

HOG OILER FACTORY

Clarence Peterson patented and manufactured a hog oiler which was sold extensively in this locality and elsewhere.

ICE PLANT

Zenas F. Myers had an ice plant on the southwest edge of Polk and sold ice to stores and home delivering in his dray wagon. Scales were attached at the back of the wagon where the 100 lb. ice blocks were weighed and cut. A generous piece of ice could be bought for a quarter.

Mr. Myers would first fill his own ice house and then sell blocks of ice to farmers. Farmers would build ice houses, which were deep holes in the ground covered with a wooden roof. The ice was put in layers with straw between and straw placed at the sides. The heavy 100 lb. blocks would keep quite well during the summer. How much fun it was to have ice at home to make ice cream on the Fourth of July.

IMPLEMENT PLACES

Polk's first implement stores were branch stores from Stromsburg and were located at the north end of Main Street - the Oscar A. Rystrom Co. on the east and the Alex Scott Company on the West. Both were built in 1907. They sold plows, windmills, washing machines, ice refrigerators as well as gang plows, reapers and all types of farm machinery. Repairs could be obtained here saving farmers that long drive to Stromsburg or Central City. Rystroms also had the agency for Reo, Veille and Ford cars. They continued in business until 1923. When cars came into popular use, gasoline pumps were added in front of these places.

Some of the other implement dealers through the years have been James Brazda, Paul and Leo Wurtz, Richard Thesing, F.O. Johnson, and Marvin Fredrickson.

The Fredrickson Implement Co. started business in Polk in 1938 in the old Rystrom Co. building and later moved to the southwest corner of Main Street remaining in business for 34 years. In 1947 Marvin Fredrickson erected a new building with modern equipment. In 1968 he received the Senior Dealer Award from the International Harvester Co. for 30 years of continuous service. The building is now owned by Ed Recknor.

Among the recent mechanics associated with implement places were Robert Baack, the John Deere "parts man," Lyle Widga, Emory Cramer, David Eckdahl and Lavar Sandell.

POLK HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

Frank Fruide, an Italian, operated the first eating place in Polk which was a shack of boards with a canvas roof over it which he had hastily erected to feed the many early construction workers in 1906. He was joined by a man named Reiner and together they built the first hotel and boarding house in Polk. It was a two story building on east Main Street next to the Rystrom building. They did a very good business in those early years. When the Fruide family moved to Stromsburg, the hotel was purchased by H.E. Ayres, brother of one of Polk's early doctors, Dr. C.L. Ayres, and continued in operation till around 1915. Two other early restaurant owners were Joseph Engelke and A.T. Snow. Each had a small cafe and advertised meals, lunches, confectionery, baked goods, cigars and tobacco. Engleke's store was on West Main Street.

Hotel Hokenson, large brick building was built in 1914 by a local man, Arnold Hokenson. It is located on the northeast corner of south Main Street. It was a noted stopping place for salesmen and workers. They served Sunday dinners and their spacious dining room was always full. It was considered one of the nicest hotels in this locality at that time. Through the years it has discontinued as a hotel and was remodeled for apartments. A laundry is now located in what used to be the dining room, operated by Mrs. Arnold Neuhaus. The Norton Law firm has their office in this building and a beauty shop is located here. The library is in a basement room. The lobby is used as the voting place for Polk and Pleasant Home precinct elections.

It is impossible to recall the names of all the cafes and eating places in Polk since 1906. The Corner Cafe was purchased in 1953 by Mrs. Alice Nelson. Previous owners were Charles Peterson, Paul Holmes, E.D. Clason, Wilsons, Harold and Harry Schultz, Minnie Nicholson Larson and Angeline Johnston, Oscar Sundberg and Harlan Johnson. Some of the other cafes and lunch operators through the years have been Albert Peterson, Will Miller and Otis Waak, Ralph Kahler, H. G. Whitacre, Charles Smith, August Nelson, Lawrence Sundberg, Henry Kisler, Victor and Walter Johnson, Leonard Orendorff, Hattie Green, Cynthia Carlson, Philip Melines, Burdette Flodmans.

POLK INDUSTRIES INCORPORATED

In 1962 a new industry was developed by two local men Duane and Don Miller of Polk. They had an idea — an overshot - paddlewheel - in - a - hopper implement that could be used to weigh out feed for livestock. Blacksmiths Robert Merchant and Ed Recknor made a model, they tried it out and the four of them perfected it. They called it the E-Z-Wayer and it was exactly that - the easiest, cheapest, most accurate way to weigh out feed and other things.

It was soon patented and "Polk Industries Inc." was in business in the blacksmith shop.

They obtained the services of Keith Weyer of Plainview, Nebraska who acted as distributor and soon were doing a large business. These ingenious, reasonably prices gadgets are in use metering out livestock feed in 28 states and Canada - saving time and money for farmers - weighing bentonite ore in South Dakota and Mississippi, fertilizer, flour and other materials.

The industry has now been sold to another company and is no longer manufactured in Polk.

POLK'S JEWELRY STORES

The first jewelry store in Polk was located on the east side of Main Street to the north. It was owned by a Mr. Cerny, who was only here for two years. In 1909 V. N. Swanson purchased the business and maintained the jew-

elry business in this same store. An advertisement in an early paper shows these items — a cut glass fruit bowl for $5.98, gold filled watch fobs from $1.98 to $5.98, silver teaspoons, six for $4.72, pickle castor (dish) $2.25, silver napkin ring $1.20, ladies' solid 14K gold Elgin watch $17.45 with a free neck Chain, and gold filled expansion bracelet $2.98. Wrist watches were unheard of then. Men carried their watches on a fob in their pants pocket or else in their vest pocket with a vest chain attached. This early ad also advertised jeweled back or side combs (for the hair) at $1.60 each, and American Beauty parlor lamps for $3.98.

Polk was without a jewelry store for a number of years. Then Harry L. Shafer started a business in the building now occupied by the Kansas — Nebraska Gas Co. In 1928 he moved his establishment to the north part of Main Street. Several years later Mr. Shafer moved away and no other jewelry store was ever started here.

It is an interesting fact that a jewelry store was usually found in every small town in early days. Beautiful china dishes and glassware were also sold in these jewelry stores.

LIVERY AND HORSE BARNS

Modern Transportation needs gas and service stations, garages, and repair shops, so, too, "horse and buggy days" needed livery stables. These were sometimes called "hotels for the horses." A large livery barn was built in 1907 by Edmund Stevens. This was located a block east of the center of Main Street. Early ads in the 1907 Progress read "Stevens Livery" - the place to get your team or single driver or if you want the pleasure of an automobile ride "give Ed Stevens a call." Mr. Stevens had the first car owned in Polk, an E.M.F. Cars were scarce at that time and an automobile ride was a novelty.

The liveryman derived a good revenue from traveling salesmen, who stopped in Polk, doctor's farm calls, and rental fees. Polk young men who owned no horses could rent a horse and buggy to take their sweetheart riding on Sunday afternoons. Farmers shopping in Polk could stable their team while trading. Then, too, Polk residents who didn't have a barn on their premises would keep their horse and buggy in the livery barn, paying a monthly fee.

Mr. Stevens needed an ample number of buggies and teams on hand, as well as drivers. Some of these drivers were Henry Quick, Jim Barret and Godfrey Olson. People paid by the mile and so much an hour for the time the driver waited.

In 1918 the Stevens Livery Barn was completely destroyed by fire of unknown origin one night. All contents - buggies, equipment, and a large amount of hay and firewood were destroyed. Luckily, all horses were led to safety. Across the alley west a warehouse with two cars stored within belonging to Sundberg and Son Hardware Co. was also destroyed. With the help of the Fire Department, the flames were kept from spreading to the east side of Main Street. With cars taking the place of teams, the livery barn was never rebuilt.

Louis Kahler and a Mr. Hill had a livery barn near the railroad track, but in 1910 this barn was sold to Harless Brothers who had a Horse Barn there.

Charles W. Graves also had a large Horse Barn .

POLK'S LUMBERYARDS

When the first lots were sold at Polk, Floyd Moore and Raymond Hunsaker of Stromsburg purchased a lot. They built a lumber yard near the present Fire station location. Later they sold out to Philip Sack and his brothers. The lumber yard was called Sack Lumber Company.

George A. Hoaglund built a lumber yard one-half block west of the intersection on the south side of the street. John P. Peterson was manager of the Hoaglund Lumber Company.

In 1916 Oscar Strand and Albert Aspegren purchased the Hoaglund Lumber Co. yard and it was called the Strand-Aspegren Lumber Co. In 1921 Oscar Strand became owner of this lumber yard. It was known as Strand Lumber Co. In 1928 Oscar Strand purchased the Sack Lumber Co. yard consolidating the two yards. In 1941 Oscar Strand's four sons; Paul, Warren, Hilding and Merrill became owners of the Strand Lumber Co. Paul Strand who worked in the Strand Lumber yard 44 years served as manager the last 22 years. The Strand brothers operated the yard until 1963 when they sold the business to Ray Conrad and William Norton known as Polk Lumber Co. A few years later William Norton became owner. Later William Norton liquidated the business. At present (1974) there is no lumber yard in Polk.

MASONRY WORK

"Knip" Giondid mason work for many of the new early Polk Homes. He also was a professional wrestler as told in the newspapers of 1910 - wrestling at various Nebraska towns - sometimes victorious, sometimes not. Some others doing mason work have been Frank Cohagen and Frank Stettner.

Vail and Troyer manufactured cement blocks in 1907 to 1910. Herman G. Brauer made cement vaults for many years.

POLK MEAT MARKET

Polk, as did every early town, had a special store called the Meat Market. The first one we have record of in Polk is the George Riley and Ed Aldrich Meat Market. They would butcher their own hogs or beef and maybe go out to the farm and butcher for others. They bought hides which were salted, tied and shipped to factories. Riley and Aldrich had the first ice plant in Polk. As there was no refrigeration, meat was bought daily and the shop was opened on Sundays.

George Riley sold out to a brother of Ed Aldrich and the meat market was known as Aldrich Bros. Market. In 1910 they discontinued Sunday opening. Ira Plessinger and Wochner next operated the shop and then Mr. Plessinger alone. Glenn Green was much in demand to help butcher over the years. Later David N. Carlson, father of Ann O'Shea, owned the shop till it's closing. This was Polk's last meat market.

Beef by the quarter was about 7 or 8¢ a lb. in 1909. Bacon was 15¢ a lb., hamburger - 2 lbs. for 25¢, pork was 10¢ a lb.

Glenn Green was a local butcher, who was called near and far to butcher and cut up hogs and cattle on the farm.

This meat market had a saw dust floor behind the counter and two large round "chopping block" tables. These tables were probably 5 feet in diameter and the butcher would lay down the quarter of beef and the customer would tell him where to cut and what kind of meat he wanted. It was a common practice for the early butcher to throw in free a mess of liver or some suet or a soup bone.

When the Carlson Meat Market was discontinued, there was a need for a locker plant. Lloyd Stromberg installed Polk's first and only locker plant in 1938. In 1974, pork chops were $1.39 a lb., hamburger was 98¢ a lb., and beefsteak was $1.39 a lb. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald purchased the locker and IGA grocery in 1974.

TWO MILK ROUTES IN POLK

Cohagen Milk Route was early established when the John Cohagen family, southwest of Polk, sold and delivered milk to Polk patrons, making a morning delivery daily. Milk was delivered in gallon pails or quart jars and sold for about 8¢ a quart.

Ike Conger, living on the former "Green's Acres" of Polk had a regular route also. Mr. Conger built a milk wagon on wheels where he could stack the bottles which made delivery much easier. The Progress stated this was a stylish rig and Polk patrons received their milk in style.

MILLINERY SHOPS

Hats were a part of every well dressed woman's costume in early days and shops were established in Polk for selling hats exclusively. The earliest milliners in Polk were two sisters, Daisy and Coral Sealey, (Mrs. John Rodgers) who had a shop in the Rodgers home. Later they had a small establishment on East Main Street in 1907 and 1908. In 1909 there were two millinery shops with owners, Mary Nierman and Mrs. E.C. Engelke. The Nierman shop was located in a small building north of the former Fredrickson Implement. Other operators of this shop were Ellen and Kathryn Bay, daughters of a Baptist minister Rev. J.D. Bay, Dora Thesing, Pearl Putman Clark, and later, Mrs. John Plessinger. Mrs. Plessinger called her establishment "The French Hat Shop."

Milliners would usually have a lady trimmer come to design the hat. Hats would be shipped in untrimmed with boxes of ostrich plumes, braids, ribbons, satin flowers, etc. In 1913 the vogue was large hats with large plumes on them.

When Polk no longer had a millinery shop, ladies' hats were handled in the general merchandise stores.

POLK'S MUSIC STORE AND TEACHERS

Few towns the size of Polk in 1907 could boast of a music store. But Polk had a thriving Music Store, located in the same building as Cerny's Jewelry. H.C. Troyer, "the piano man" and Clinton Garretson sold pianos, musical instruments and sheet music. They also repaired and tuned pianos. Pianos were shipped in by rail and the drayman would deliver them to the store. One can imagine they had to find a few extra helpers to help unload. Almost every family had a piano in their home. When a family bought one it was a Progress news item. Pianos were around $250. Piano stools $5.

In 1908 we found these prices for instruments, a violin for $28.95, brass cornets from $8 to $13, accordians ranged from $4 to $23, harps $6—harmonicas or mouth harps were much in demand and almost every child could play one. They ranged in price from 50¢ to $1.98. Music stands sold for 98¢ and sheet music for 5 and 10¢.

Early music teachers were Marie Cowgill, Susie Patterson, Alice Tewell, Myrtle Wood, Earl Cockle, and Mrs. Clinton Garretson. Many times the music teacher would come to the pupils' home to give the lesson.

In 1909 Mr. J.A. Spero formed a vocal musical organization called the Apollo. This all male group of seventeen Polk people sang at various occasions, and was much in demand. They furnished the music for churches and commencements. Mr. Spero was the father of Mrs. C.R. Vail who lived in east Polk.

Now music instruction is given in the Polk school system and there are few private music instructors.

PAINTERS AND WALL PAPER HANGERS

With so much building in Polk, painters and paperhangers did a lucrative business in interior decorating and painting. Early ads in the Progress stated Charles Whittemore and Miller advertising for house painting, carriage and sign work. Fred Cummings and Carlson as well as A.T. Snow and a Mr. Black were asking for outside paint jobs. Carriages and buggies needed painting and oldsters can remember these bright red wheels on these vehicles. Usually there would be striping of the wheel color around the seats which required minute detail. One early firm was known as Polk Wallpaper & Paint Co. and owned by W.W. Tulley. They sold out to Victor Anderson & Co. in 1909.

August F. Nelson, who lived where Conrad Lindholm now lives was a popular and well liked painter and paperhanger. Conrad Lindholm is one of Polk's efficient

painters at this time.

Morris Lindquist, a former Polk boy, who now lives in Central City does a great deal of this type of work in and around Polk. Mrs. Harold Miller also hung wallpaper until she moved to Arcadia.

PHOTOGRAPH SHOP

Ernest Newton, "the Picture Man," had a neat photograph shop or gallery located where the Polk Co-op Oil Station now stands. Mr. Newton was an Arborville native and also maintained a shop in Stromsburg for some time. More people in early days had their pictures taken, exchanging with friends and relatives. It was also the custom to have large framed pictures of relatives hanging on living room walls. Mr. Newton did a good business and many of the photographs he took are in existence today. He also had portable photography equipment, and would take pictures in the home or on the farm.

Later he sold to a man by the name of Draper. These two men were the only professional photographers in Polk.

RECREATION PARLOR AND CAFE

Walter and Victor Johnson ran a cafe and recreation place on the east side for many years. Later, Walter sold out to Victor Johnson and "Vic" and his wife maintained the business for a long time. Richard Widga and son, Don, then purchased it and later it was run by Don alone.

REALTORS AND INSURANCE AGENTS

The first land agents at Polk were Hill and Hammond who termed themselves "Pioneer Land" men. These two men advertised freely as they operated the Polk Progress at this time. They not only did a thriving business in Polk and Pleasant Home precinct, but would take people on land excursions by train to Wyoming, South Dakota, and Idaho. Some older Polk citizens may recall the special train car load of Polk County people that made the land excursion trip to Idaho, where several Polk men bought land. A free trip was given to any person interested in purchasing real estate.

They also promoted a Western Gold Mine Excursion to Colorado, but a later Progress stated no one from Polk went on this trip. A few of the many ads listed in 1907 were... new eight room house and two full lots in the new village of Polk priced at $3500...240 A. improved farm with new barn and house improvements close to Polk, listed at $21,600...320 A. farm, 2½ miles from Polk-good house - listed at $32,000.

W. F. Gorin of Polk an insurance dealer for Nebraska Mutual Insurance Co. had the company's record of writing 32 policies in January 1909. Early pioneers, as a rule, did not take out much insurance. Alex Lind, Charles Lindburg and I. T. Samuelson were early real estate and insurance agents. We have many insurance agents for Polk locality, but Kenneth Stewart of the Citizen's State Bank is the only realtor in Polk.

SHOE REPAIR SHOPS

The first shoe repair shop was located in the building north of the present Hill Construction Company Office. It was run by Mr. Arvine, who only remained in Polk a few years.

In those days people never threw away shoes when the soles were worn out or there developed a hole. They were always patched or half soled. To half sole shoes in those days, the cost was 25¢ to 50¢ and doubled the life of the shoe. No one thought anything of wearing a shoe with a patch sewed over the toe.

Ladies' shoes were high and buttoned with as many as twenty buttons. Every home had one to two button hooks around. It wasn't until the early twenties that low oxfords for women came into vogue. The repair man sold lots of shoe polish in those days, too. Polish sold for 15¢ a bottle - always liquid form then. Many families had their own shoe lathes with different size forms to put on, so the father could often repair the families shoes. These lathes were made of iron and were long lasting and saved many a shoe repair bill.

Karl Dethloff had a shoe and repair shop in connection with Sundberg and Son Hardware Co. He came here in 1914 and remained with this firm until his retirement.

T. J. Nelson, a retired farmer, established a small shop on West Main Street and repaired shoes for many years.

POLK STOCKYARDS

Polk Stockyards were located adjacent north to the railroad tracks at the east side of the road. Livestock farming was an important industry in the Polk locality and practically every farmer produced and sold large herds of cattle and hogs each year. More hogs were raised than cattle and only a very few farmers had sheep.

The first owner of the Polk Stockyards was a firm called White and Aldrich. Then John Plessinger owned it. Will Green was also a stock buyer, buying from the farmer and reselling, as did Raymond Cox, and Godfrey Olson and Albert Peterson.

In early days cattle and hogs were driven to market on foot with the help of the owner's good neighbors at corners and farm lanes. Later they were trucked in. The stock would be loaded into stock cars and shipped to Omaha or Chicago. If the farmer sold a carload of stock he would receive a free pass to the city, riding in the caboose. We have these statistics for the shipping of stock and grain for the month of Nov. 15th to Dec. 15th, 1910 from Polk: Hogs - 8 cars, cattle - 1 car, wheat - 25 cars, oats - 1 car, corn - 9 cars.

The stockyards have long been discontinued as farmers truck their stock directly to commission firms. But stockyards did serve a distinct purpose in early days to help build Polk.

POLK TELEPHONE COMPANY

Before telephone poles and lines were established, the Polk telephone office was temporarily connected with a Polk County hook-up. Linemen from Bradshaw helped to set the first telephone poles and built the lines in 1907. A newspaper item reported they did a very quick and efficient job.

Polk's first telephone office was located in the home of Joseph C. McClure where the Don Hanquists now reside at the east edge of Polk. The equipment was installed in the southwest bedroom upstairs and a Mrs. Fickes from Arborville drove up in a horse and buggy to operate the central station from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. When she left for home Mrs. McClure would assume the duties. Alice McClure Walden recalls how as a little girl her mother would let her sit on a high stool with head phone on and take care of calls as she could do it as good as her mother. There were few calls around supper time and Alice would remain at the switchboard while her mother prepared the meal. Telephone numbers were so different then; always a color attached like green 874, white 862,

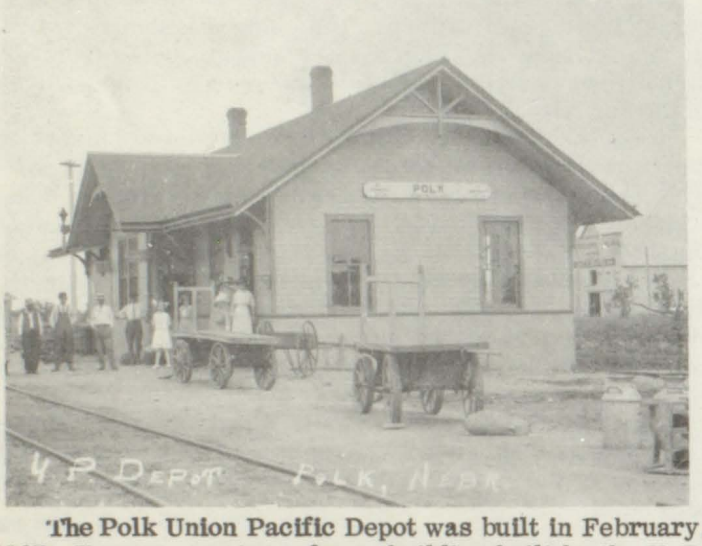
or pink 394. There were three color buttons - green, white, pink. You punched the color button before ringing the number after making the proper connections.

After Polk was organized the switchboard was moved to the house, a block west and the first house north of the First National Bank building. Lillie Lundeen, Martha Taylor Moberg, Grace Karr and Pearl Putman clerk were chief operators. Some of the others through the years have been Mrs. Emment Alton, Esther Hixon, Grayce Stevens Burney, Leona McConnell McGraw. Olga Gustafson Guilford, Elsie Coordes Monson, Edith Glad Stellers, Mildred McDaniel Forrester, Artemise Smith Higgs. Julia McClure Rice, Blanche Stevens Sundberg, Ruth Rodine Curry, Joyce Jones Baack and May Bay Weims also worked there.

Telephone managers through the years have been a Niel Rakestraw, who was accidentally electrocuted while working on a Polk Telephone line, Gordon Eno, Charles Crew and James Hatfield. The latter services the Polk area at this time. The local telephone office was discontinued when direct dialing was installed and phone calls are handled through the York and Lincoln offices.

A local boy, Sterling Nelson of York was a long time District manager.

POLK DEPOT



The Polk Union Pacific Depot was built in February, 1907. It was a one story, frame building built by the U.P. Company, which measured 24' by 60'--basically the same building that was in use here for 66 years. The railroad had been laid through Polk in 1906 and became known as the Stromsburg branch off the main line of the Union Pacific. It ran from Valparaiso, Nebraska, to Central City, Nebraska. A board nailed on the east side of the depot had this information: Polk, altitude 1734 feet. Valparaiso, 63 miles, Central City, 12 miles. The first train came through on March 1, 1907. There were 4 passenger trains and two freights daily, besides the 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. Motor Car.

An item from the 1912 Polk Progress told of a seed corn special train that came through Polk in March. The train had three coaches equipped with charts and apparatus for demonstration purposes. H.J. Gramlich was in charge of the train and had a lecture force of four men besides himself. Much enthusiasm was shown at this event. The train was one of four covering the entire state of Nebraska.

J.E. McDaniel was the first depot agent. The Omaha U.P. office did not have a list of the agents. Some that we recall were a Mr. Omsby, Wayne Glasser, Mr. N.E. McNeeley. Nelson King, Jake Harding and Elmer Warnick were section helpers.

Larry Kellion, the last depot agent, left in 1973 when the depot was disbanded.

Today a supervisor in a mobile unit bills out the freight and drives from town to town.

VARIETY STORES

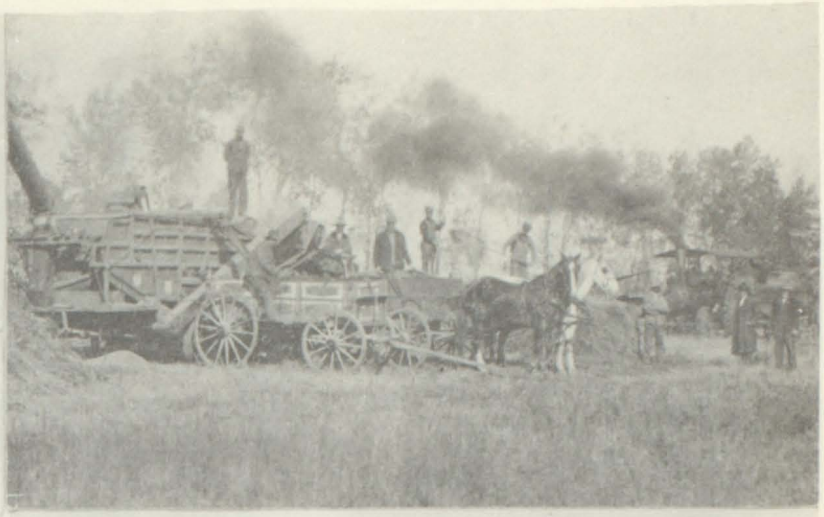
Bert A. Darrow and wife opened a Variety Store in Polk in 1911. This was located in the building where the Co-op cream station formerly operated. Prior to this Mr. Darrow, who was one of Polk's first merchants, had a general merchandise store with Charles V. Lind. Darrow's store sold dress goods as well as a large assortment of sundries. Old timers will recollect the long candy counter where one could buy candy novelties for a penny. Later Mr. Darrow sold out to Charles F. Eckles, who maintained the store until about 1920. Polk was without a store of this type until recent years when Anna Kisler Guthrie added variety articles to her line of medical supplies and sundries. She, too has discontinued.

Mrs. Bert Darrow resides at Nebraska Veteran's Home at Grand Island. A daughter lives in Lincoln.

Front row: Roland, Alvin, Martin & Harry Dahlin. Oscar stands in back. Others are carpenters working in the home. John Halquist, Carl Toreen, Paul Self, Ray Phillips, Ernest Vincent and A.T. Snow. Home located 1½ miles east and ½ mile south of Polk.

Life is full of shadows, but the sunshine makes them all.

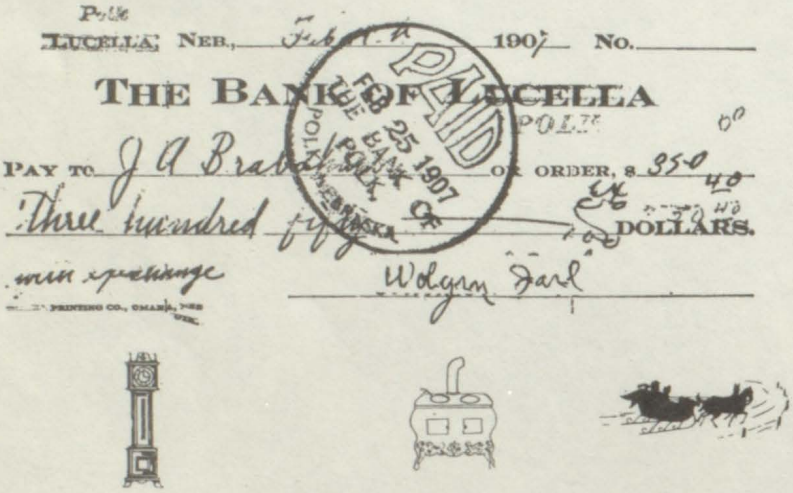
LINDBURG OIL CO
MOTOR INN FILLING STATION



H. C. GRAVES,
POLK NEB.

The Bank Of Lucella Became The Bank Of Polk

How many Progress readers knew that the location for the new town on the railroad branch line being extended west from Stromsburg was once planned to be 2 miles east of the Oscar Anderson corner and ½ mile north? One store building was built and a bank organized, which later became the Bank of Polk. Tht town's name, LUCELLA is on the checks printed for the bank that never materialized. In the picture are Joshua and Raymond Cox and M. F. Smith. Others in the picture are not identified. Picture furnished by Louella Smith of Central City. Alvin Dahlin provided the check which he kept as proof of Lucella.



Horsepower Had Four Legs In 1911

Martin Baack brought in three photographs of early Polk. This one pictures a road grader at work on Polk's Main Street in 1911. Mrs Louella Smith of Central City, who furnished the Progress with a similar picture in 1956, believes the small boy on the back of the grader is Len Smith.

Northwest side of Main St, Polk, Nebraska forty-five years ago.

Early Polk

Mrs. Louella Smith of Central City sent this picture of the elevator still standing on the farm southeast of Polk, once owned by M. F. Smith, who was an outstanding farmer and stockman in this area at the turn of the century. Mrs. Smith included an itemiezd list of the elevator's construction costs when it was built in 1900: lumber, $770.41; machinery, $994.48; hardware, $94.35; brick and stone, $105.32; paint, $20.00; carpenter work, $539.35; mason work, $15.50; painting. $25.00; extra labor, $24.15; incidentals, $48.59. Total cost, $2636.15.

School Days, School Days

Ira Glasser had obtained a camera and used it to record the exciting events of his Polk school days. He doesn't remember who were in this line-up, waiting a turn. The boy at the rear looks like a Myers.

Sponsored by American Legion

Cast of Characters

Director ..... Miss Helen Mack
Pianist ..... Miss Naomi Alfred
Violnist ..... Mrs. Harry Shafer

Butler ..... A. H. Woolever
Punch Girl ..... Harold Reeb
Present Taker ..... D. B. Carter
Bride's Weeping Mother
J. L. Stouffer
Bride's Comforting Father
C. E. Cohagan
Bad Little Brothers .. Chas. Wright
Chas. Crew
Ikey Rosenstein ..... P. J. Garten
Old Maid Aunt ..... Harry Shafer
Bride's Grandmother Dave Anderson
Bride's Grandfather A. G. Lindburg
Charlie Chaplin ..... Walter Johnson
Uncle from Stromsburg
Dave Carlson
Aunt from Stromsburg
J. S Gustafson
Twin Sisters ..... Clifford Branting
Ralph Branting
Mary Pickford ..... Billie McGaffin

Groom's Haughty Mother
Clarence Cash
Groom's Haughty Father
Charles Stettner
Fashion Plate ..... N. Moomey
Harry Lauder ..... Edwin Lindburg
Sis Hopkins ..... Floyd Merchant
Pat O'Grady ..... Oscar Sundberg
Rosie O'Grady ..... W. H. Tenney
Country Cousin ..... Paul Strand
Annie Laurie ..... O. A. Adelson
Governor McMullen
Dr. F. B. Slusser
Mrs. McMullen ..... Lawrence Lind
Henpecked husband ..... D. N. Mills
His devoted wife ..... Hilding Strand
Fritz Kreisler ..... H. B. Johnson
Flapper of 1927 ..... Harry Schultz

President Coolidge .. H. M. McGaffin
Mrs. Coolidge ..... Roy Morgan
Negro Mammy ..... Harvey Hahn
Bride's Baby Sister .... A. K. Crow

Sambo ..... Jim Felton
Queen Marie of Roumania
Lawrence Peterson
Prince Nicholas .... Sam McConnell
Village School Ma'm .. H. A. Johnson
General Pershing ..... Carl Lind
Field Marshall Haig .... W. C. Steele
Theda Bara ..... Emmett Alton
Kentucky Colonel .... C. R. Peterson
His Lady ..... R S. McCutchen
John D. Rockefeller .... Dr. Westfall
Mrs. Rockefeller .... John Cohagan
Galli Curci ..... Albert Sundberg
Henry Ford ..... Henry Reeb
Mrs. Ford ..... Oscar Gustafson
State Engineer Roy Cochran
Mell Hill
Irving Berlin ..... Wilbur Whitacre
Groomsmen ..... Harold Nelson
Bill Bedient .. Edwin Ziegelbein
Keith Green
Harold Peterson
Philip Sack

Bishop ..... C. O. Eckles
Best Man ..... S. C. Cowles
Paderewiski ..... W. A. Carnine
Bridesmaids ..... Lennis Lind
Forrest Sedan .. Lawrence Sundberg
Floyd Miller .. Earl Bay
Morris Braithwait
Maid of Honor ..... Lloyd Cole
Matron of Honor ..... R. J. Allison
Flower Girls
Clarence Bryant .. Morris Nyberg
Ring Bearer ..... Art Schultz
Bride ..... Bert Weichell
Groom ..... Guess Who?
Train Bearer ..... E J. Youmans

This Is The 1951 Edition Of The "Womanless Wedding"

This is the second edition of the "Womanless Wedding" which was masterminded by Elaine (Peterson) Stromberg in May 1951. Many of the participants are still around, sitting up and taking nourishment, though they may have trouble recognizing themselves.

ALL STAR WEDDING

SPONSORED BY POLK, NEBR.

COMMERCIAL CLUB

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1951

Wedding Guests

Butler	EVERETT GREEN
Ken	C. STRAND
Aunt	LLOYD STROMBERG
Uncle	LEE BOYER
Aunt Jermima	ILOF OSTBERG
Baby	FRED STELLAR
Miss Knowall	LEO WERTZ
Kate Smith	MERLE STONBERG
Mother	HILDING STRAND
Twins	FLOYD LYLE
	VIRGIL KISLER
Simon	OSCAR SUNDBERG
Ima Jilt	BOB HOLMES
Harry Truman	DALE LINDBERG
Margaret Truman	CHUCK PETERSON
Miss America	JAKE HARDING
Al Jolson	CLARENCE BOLTON
Snozzle Durante	ALPHE LEVENE
Amos and Andy	PAUL STRAND
	BILL LAVELLE
Andrew Sisters	ELDON JOHNSON
	ALBERT SUNDBERG
	ALTON WILHILEMS
Lena Horn	DEAN MYERS
Dolly Sisters	DEAN LINDBERG
	CHAS. NORQUIST, GORDON FOSSBERG
Rich Aunt	CARL JOHNSON
Rich Uncle	JOHN EKSTROM
Bobby Soxer	VERN JONES
Frank Sinatra	DOYLE HAHN
Tramp	JOHN BILLS
Hoosier Hot Shots	
Digger O'Delle	
Bing & Gary Crosby	DOYLE MUNN, DICK GUSTAFSON
Ole Black Joe	NICK McNOT
Bess Truman	LLOYD KROGER

Bridal Party

Flower Girls	CLIFF CRAMER, [illegible]REEN
Ring Bearer	ARNOLD NEUHAUS
Bridesmaid	ROLLAND STROMBERG
Bestman	CHARIE WRIGHT
Bride	BURDELLE FLODMAN
Groom	RALPH KAHLER
Marrying Sam	M. FREDRICKSON

Director—E. Peterson

-1929-

The Polk American Legion

PRESENTS

'SWEETHEART TOWN"

Ladies of the Chorus

Berniece Stevens, Verna Flodman, Hazel Flodman, Margaret Jack, Edna May Newton, Ree Seymour, Lelah Kroger, Hazel Larson, Helen McCoy, Wilmetta Steele, Vivian Alfred, Berniece Menssen, Vivian Halleck, Eunice Halleck, Mrs. Wayne Stevens, Mrs. Ruby Anderson, Theo Smith, Edith Flick, Bula McCoy.

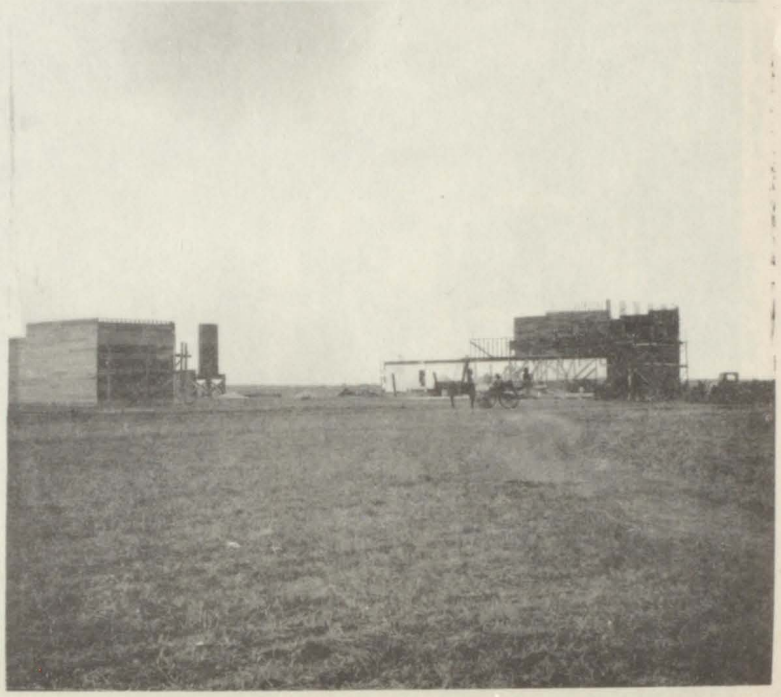
Thursday and Friday, April 25 - 26

POLK, NEBRASKA

Cast of Characters

Ezra Parks, who manages a hotel	Harry Shafer
Redelia Parks, who manages Ezra	Artimise Smith
Mary Parks, their daughter	Grayce Stevens
Joe Brooks, in love with Mary	Oscar Sundberg
Squire Biglow, the richest man in town	Chas Crew
Tillie Biglow, his sister	Mrs Chas. Crew
Peggy Biglow, the Squire's daughter	Mrs D N. Carlson
Martin Pierce, from New York	Lennis Lind
Professor Lighthead, a man of mystery	Walter Johnson
Almos Black, with a color all his own	Dean Nelson
Mazie Wood, an actress	Lillian Brown
Miss Kaba, in search of a man	Ruby Anderson

Clifford and Ralph Branting



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF POLK, NEBR.
GALE PHOTO
YORK

EAST SIDE MAIN STREET
POLK, NEBR. ②

No. MAIN STREET
POLK NEB.
R25.

MAIN St. LOOKING NORTH
POLK, NEBR.

PARADE,
FRATERNAL PICNIC,
POLK, NEBR.

RES. OF
D. R. ARROW.
POLK, NEB.

Horace Stevens and hunters . . . up to 40 m.p.h.

Cold Weather Means Sport Thrills for Coyote Chasers

By Harold Cowan
World-Herald Staff Member

Polk, Neb.—These cold mornings hold the barest hint of approaching winter and hunting time for the Stevens brothers.

"It's best when the snow is on the ground," said Horace Stevens, who is eager to resume his hobby.

A farmer, he and his brothers for many years have made life all but impossible around here for predatory coyotes.

They run the animals down with fleet dogs that are crossbreeds between greyhounds and staghounds. Horace has four such dogs at his farm.

"The greyhounds are the fastest, but the staghounds put up the best fight, so it takes a crossbreed to make a good coyote-hound," Mr. Stevens said.

A brother, Glen, who lives near-by goes on the hunts. Other brothers who live near O'Neill, Neb., and in Colorado, respectively, often join in.

"Generally, we get calls from someone who has been having trouble with coyotes," Horace said. "We load the dogs in a pickup and look for tracks in the snow. The hounds don't trail like bloodhounds. They hunt mostly by sight. When we spot a coyote, we turn the dogs loose and usually they run him down and kill him."

He said he has clocked his hounds up to 40 miles an hour in full chase.

He has been hunting coyotes about 20 years, he said, and has bagged as many as 30 during a single winter season.

There is a $2.50 bounty for each coyote, but this hardly pays expenses, he said.

"We do it for the sport and to get rid of the coyotes that are bothering," he said.

His favorite dog is Brownie, a friendly, tail-wagging 6-year-old. A good hunter can cost up to $50, he said.

"Brownie's hard to fool and quite a hunter," he said.

Coyotes are fleet of foot and sly. They will backtrack a trail a la fox to throw off pursuers.

"Once we chased one right into a farmer's hoghouse," Horace said. "We might have missed him if we hadn't seen him go in. We ran him out and the dogs caught him."

The Swede Plain Methodist church four miles northeast of Polk, was moved off it's foundation Sunday evening, by the terrific wind storm that swept thru this locality Sunday evening. Mrs Gust Lindburg's large barn north of town was also almost completely destroyed by the wind storm.

The motor car on it's maiden run passed through Polk, Sunday morning. 150 passengers were on its' east bound trip between Central City and Lincoln and 125 on its' west bound trip. 1912

, Gary Stevens, five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Stevens went fishing Sunday for the first time. His uncle Irvin Anderson had barely baited his hook when he yelled "Come and help me". He had a 17 inch catfish dangling on his line and his eyes were big as saucers. For beginners luck he rated pretty good.

Polk was advertised far and near as being the wealthiest town in the United States according to it's population. 1919

Majorettes at Nebr. Weselyan Uni. Daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stevens Sharon, Left – Shirley on right.

Do You Remember?

This is an early photo of Polk found in the possessions of the late M. H. Kealiher. The one tree was probably a cottonwood.

May 7, 1970

SWAT POT Day last Wednesday had the Polk High School students spending the day setting out plugs of reed-canary grass and scattering grass seed along the banks of the Blue river, south and east of Polk. Top left shows a group digging the plugs from a field on the Wilson Seed Farms. Top right, Vic Bender is tucking dirt around a plug. Below left, a crew is setting plugs along the bank and at right, Diane Green is weilding a spade while Jeanie Wize holds a plug of grass at the ready.

1924

The business men and the baker were trying to get together, whereby the local merchants would sell bread made in Polk.

The Progress published a warning saying all persons were requested to close their cut-outs and not drive over 10 miles per hour within the city limits. (now we think 35 miles per hour is slow.) 1912

For all kinds of steak - beef or pork - per pound 12½ cents, at Plessinger's meat market. 1912

A. Bauder and Son were advertising new prices on Ford cars (F. O. B. Detroit) Runabout $325, Touring car $355, Coupe $595 and Sedan $660. (Quite a contrast in prices of new Fords today)

New triumph (horse drawn) Wagons made by John Deere were selling for $110.00 at Rystrom's Implement in Polk, just in time for corn picking by hand

'Good Pitch Game' Is Wayne Hill's 97th Birthday Wish

Polk's oldest resident, Wayne (Pa.) Hill, will observe his 97th birthday Wednesday. His wish for the day: "To have a good game of pitch."

His brother, Orlie of York, is his partner once a week when he pays him a visit. Dwight Burney, former lieutenant governor of Nebraska, plays with Hill almost every day and says, "He has the luck of the Irish – he wins more game than I do."

Born in York County, Hill has lived in this area all his life except for a few years spent in Oregon when he was a youngster. He recalls his trip back to Nebraska vividly. He fell out of the covered wagon, and wasn't immediately missed by his parents. Returning the two miles to get him, they found him surrounded by Indians who were ready to take him into custody. Fortunately the lad was released to his parents.

Hill makes his home with his only child, Glenn, and wife. Glenn is a contractor and gone much of the time and Mrs. Hill has been teaching school. The refrigerator is kept well filled, and "pa," who married late in life, after years of batching on the farm, enjoys getting his own meals and fixing what he likes best. Friends and neighbors keep an eye out for him and drop in often, bringing treats and sweets.

Wayne Hill

He often pleases his audience by reciting some of the "literary" poems and stories he learned many years ago.

A staunch Democrat, the only Republican he ever voted for was Burney.

His wife died 15 years ago and Hill enjoys cards and visits from his two granddaughters, Sondra, marred to Dr. Harbert Feidler of Norfolk, and Sheralee, married to Dr. Donald Iglehart of San Francisco.

His family of six brothers and five sisters has dwindled to two brothers and two sisters, Orlie being the only one living in Nebraska. He retired from farming in 1931, then operated a produce station for 26 years in Polk.

Although his eyesight has dimmed some and last winter he suffered some foot troubles, he maintains a quick wit and a ready smile. At the Polk Bean Day parade in September he rode in the parade with this sign "I've made it 96 years, – you can too... But a little snuff helped"... The crowd laughed and waved as they clapped....

Widow Is Mother of Four Valedictorians

By MRS LLOYD HAHN

POLK — Mrs. Helen Larkin had reason to view spring graduation this year with a great deal of pride. A widow since 1950, she has remained on her 160 acre farm helping her four children receive graduation diplomas and college degrees.

All four of her children received special recognition this spring.

Jack, valedictorian of Polk high school in 1955, received his master's degree in chemistry at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Janet, Polk high school's valedictorian in 1957, graduated recently from the University of Omaha with a major in home economics.

Joan graduated from Polk high school this year and was class valedictorian.

Jean, the youngest of the foursome, graduated from the eighth grade. She too, was promoted as valedictorian of her class.

Mrs. Larkin's irrgated farm is farmed by two neighbors. She says that all her neighbors have been wonderful to lend a helping hand. She not only supervises the farming, but has found time to actively engage in church work, lead a 4-H club, help at the county fair, and be a good neighbor to others.

The high scholastic ranking of her children Mrs. Larkin attributes to her children's work, not hers.

Jack was a Boy's Stater and Janet and Joan were both Girl's Staters. Joan's state temperance league essay won first place for her. She will enter St. Mary's college at Omaha this fall in preparation for nurses' training.

"Even if I will just have Jean with me on the home place, my present plans call for staying on the farm," says Mrs. Larkin.

"I love the farm."

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

MR. AND MRS. H. G. BRAUER, POLK, NEBR., CELEBRATED THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ON MARCH 2, 1947. MRS. BRAUER, A FLOWER LOVER, NAMED HER FOUR CHILDREN (ALL GIRLS) LILLIE, ROSELLA, VIOLA AND VERBENA. AT THE ANNIVERSARY THE GIRLS WORE CORSAGES SYMBOLICAL OF THEIR NAMES: LILLIES, ROSES, VIOLETS, AND VERBENAS.

Hill Sand and Gravel Digs Up, Human Bones, Overshoe

County police officials here Wednesday were attempting to link up an 11 year unsolved disappearance and a handfull of human bone fragments.

The fragments were dredged from a stretch of the North Loup River currently the scene of gravel operations by the Hill Sand and Gravel Company. The dredge is on land owned by John Lemmon three miles north of Ord.

Harvey Brumbaugh, gravel pump operator employed by Glen Hill, dredge owner, found the first fragments Saturday.

Later Hill told County Sheriff Vern Beran he ignored the bones at first but".... became alarmed when I saw a human jaw bone."

Hill later made a report to County Attorney Ralph Norman who yith the sheriff and county physician R. J. Lynn made an investigation.

Dr. Lynn was reluctant to classify the fragments other than saying they were definitely "human."

Lynn said the sharp slope of the brow made him question whether or not the find was a "modern" skull. Most of the teeth were intact but appeared heavily worn.

Police, attempting to solve the mystery, were closely eyeing a battered rubber overshoe pumped up with the fragments.

In the overshoe they saw a possible link with the disappearance of Earl Poland, 34, who supposedly drowned about three miles from the gravel location, May 3, 1942.

Poland was reportedly wearing overshoes at the time.

Poland was reported shouting for help to two companions the night of the drowning mishap but his body was never located. Poland's companions told authorities they had heard him call for help as his boat sank.

This week county police were theorizing Poland's body might floated to the dredge location, snagged against a tree and later sank.

County Attorney Ralph Norman said a disposal of the case will wait a report from Lincolnh where the bones have been shipped for examination.

Norman also said an attempt will be made to locate a dental chart of Poland for comparison with the skull.

(Ord Quiz, Sept. 2)

Polk Writer Gets National Women's Press Club Honors

World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—Mrs. Lloyd Hahn, veteran state writer, received additional laurels Friday.

She was the only Nebraskan to receive a rating in the 1954-1955 annual writers' contest sponsored by the National Federation of Press Women.

Announcement of her selection was made at the concluding banquet of the federation's national convention in New Orleans Friday night.

Mrs. Hahn, correspondent for The Omaha World-Herald, took 15 first places in this year's Nebraska Women's Press Association writing contests.

Her national honors:

Second in publicity or promotion, program scripts, "Farm Safety"—Radio KRVN, Lexington.

Third in column (written regularly) in trade journal, "Country Calling"—Town and Crier, Lexington.

Third in women's department (two consecutive issues) in magazine or trade journal, "Chit-Chat for F. B. Ladies"—Nebraska Agriculture, Lincoln.

Second in news picture in magazine, "The Nebraska Agriculture Camera Visits the Counties"—Nebraska Agriculture, Lincoln.

Third in radio commercial, "Carl Curtis for United States Senate"—radio station KRVN, Lexington.

Mrs. F. H. Price, associate editor of the Newman Grove Reporter was elected president of the federation.

Mrs. Hahn . . . is in state.

Mrs. Price was vice-president, and succeeds Mrs. Glenn Anenky, Topeka.

Regional directors elected include:

Region 6, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas—Mrs. Willis Vanderburg, co-publisher and editor, Shell Rock News and Denver Times Shell Rock, Ia.

—World-Herald News Service Photo.

Darwin . . . Navy.

June 1963

Widow's 6th Son Enlists

Polk, Neb.—The sixth son of Mrs. Harvey Hahn, World War II widow, has entered the armed services.

Darwin Hahn, like his father and three brothers—Donald, Dennis and Doyle—chose the Navy.

Brothers Dwayne and Delano were in the army.

Darwin left this week for boot training at San Diego.

Donald, who now lives at Seattle, enlisted in 1942 and served three years as a submarine electrician.

Dennis who now lives at Seattle, served four years on the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dwayne applied for Navy service but was rejected because of a minor tooth defect. He entered the Army in 1946 and saw action in in 1952 and served four Korea.

Doyle joined the Seabees years in the South Pacific. Delano entered the Army in 1955 and served in Korea.

Darwin feels he's almost certain to see some of the places where his father or one of his brothers have been.

R. H. Thesing offered 50 lbs. of twine free to the man who made the closest guess to the amount of binder twine he would sell to tie the 1924 harvest.

POLK News.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS VISITS NELL AKER

1973

The members of the "Wide Awakes" Sunday School Class and their teacher, Mrs Irvin Anderson visited with Nell Aker Sunday morning during their Sunday School hour. Miss Aker has been a shut-in, the past two months, following a hip operation. The class had devotions and presented her with a basket of fruit. In her usual inspiring manner Miss Aker told the group of her early Sunday School years and then related the story of Captain John Ray's experiences as a Prisioner of War when no Bible was available. Captain Ray emphasized the need of Bible Memory work in our Sunday Schools. At the close she told the class that she herself, had memorized the 111 verses of the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5, 6, and 7 of Matthew) while she has been recuperating from her broken hip.

Timothy Benson of Kearney and Jackie Heiden of Hampton accompanied the class members, Judi Saylor, Virginia Miller, Joel Anderson and Denise Sterns. The group enjoyed and greatly appreciated Miss Aker's delightful talk.

Polk was currently enjoying a real estate boom. So many homes had changed hands during the past few months, there was not one desireable house in town for sale or rent. There were several farmers in the community who would move to Polk that spring if suitable housing could be obtained.

1943

Polk was barely missed by the twister that worked havoc on neighboring farms Sunday evening. Arborville was in the path of the gale with barns on the Blaine Mills and Clarence Cockle farms wrecked. The large dairy barn valued at $12,000.00 on the old Ernest Olson farm occupied by Robert Gustafson was completely demolished. Windmills were blown over on many of the farms.

Harvest Specials at A. O. Monson Co. were, work shirts - 79c to 93c each; overalls - $1.68 to $1.85; work shoes - $2.78 to $3.50. Also unionalls, gloves and straw hats that make harvesting a pleasure.

1924

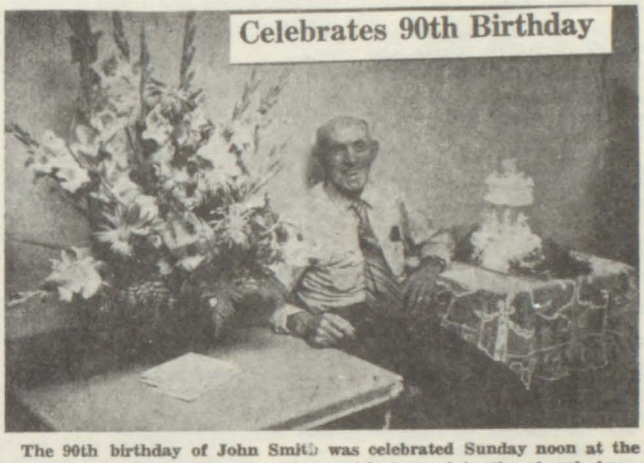
THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1973

Polk Progress

Mary Nyberg Has 95th Birthday

Mrs. Mary Nyberg was honored on her 95th birthday Friday evening, June 22, at the Evangelical Free Church. Friends and relatives came to share in the happy occasion. Sixty-eight signed the guest book and a time of visiting was enjoyed. Refreshments were served by members of her family. Guests came from Kentucky, Osceola, Stromsburg, Central City, Hordville and Polk communitis. Special guests were nephews Martin and Karl Wessling from Sweden. In the picture are, from the left, standing: Martin Wessling, son Philip Nyberg, Karl Wessling. Seated: daughter Helen and Mrs. Mary Nyberg.

Celebrates 90th Birthday

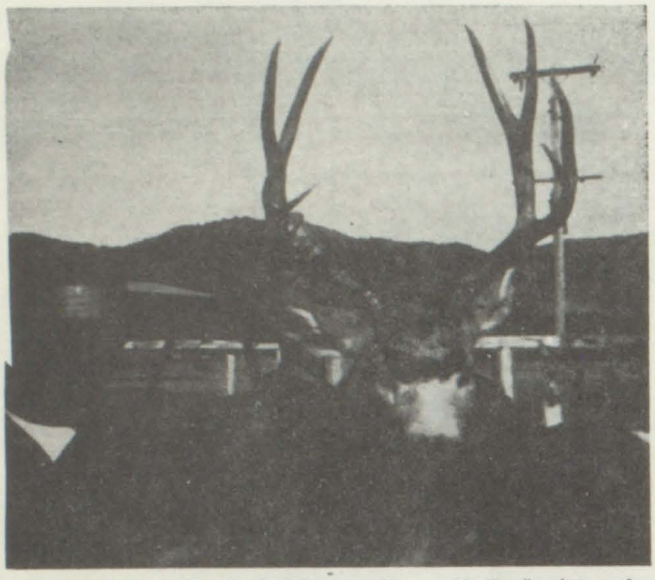


The 90th birthday of John Smith was celebrated Sunday noon at the Immanuel Lutheran Church with a pot-luck meal in the church basement. About 40 relatives and friends attended. John received many birthday cards and a bouquet of flowers from his son, Ivan and family. Mrs. Ervin Blase, a niece, baked the birthday cake. (Polk Progress)

Good Neighbors...

Farm friends of the late Dean Ostberg, who was killed in a tractor accident Tuesday about three miles north of Polk, turned out en masse Saturday to help the grief-stricken family. Shown here are only a few of the eight ensilage choppers and 48 trucks that cut and hauled 74 acres of ensilage. About 110 men worked in the operation during which 385 truck loads of ensilage were hauled a round trip distance of 28 miles. Work began about 7:30 a.m. and ended at 5:30 p.m. Approximately 40 women worked in shifts preparing and serving lunch during the morning, noon and afternoon.

Hot Rod Gets His Deer



Spec. 5 Rodney "Hot Rod" Johnson, shot a 186-lb. 5-point mule deer, October 27, while on a hunting trip near Ft. Carson Colorado.

APRIL 19, 1973

TWO EVERGREENS DONATED

Two evergreen trees were donated to the Polk Park from the Ivan Johnson Memorial Fund. Planting the trees last week were Wayne Creech, son-in-law of the late Ivan Johnson and Doyle Hahn, caretaker.

POLK FARMER PROVIDES ICE SKATING RINK

Nov 22 1956

POLK—The young folks of Polk will have an ice skating rink—all because a farmer got an idea.

Lloyd Hahn, farming across the road from an abandoned ice pond, thought he could run irrigation pipe across and fill the acre and a half pond, providing a culvert was put in to cross the road.

He talked to the town board, who contacted the county commissioners. The culvert was installed, the owners permission (Z. F. Myers estate) received, and Mr. Hahn ran his pipe 130 rods to fill the pond with water. He pumped over 40 hours to run an estimated 2,340,000 gallons of water into the pond which was formerly used 25 years ago to supply ice for the village.

The town board paid the cost of pumping.

Now all is in readiness for the first hard freeze. The local hardware store is putting in a line of ice skates.

Items about Polk People.

Polk Woman's Story to Be Told On Television

POLK (Special)—The good fortunes of a Polk, Neb., woman, who has been an invalid for the past eight years, will possibly rest in the hands of some Hollywood movie star Monday morning, Jan. 25.

The story of Mrs. Arthur Anderson will be told to a national television audience on the program "Strike It Rich." The program reviews the unfortunate cases submitted to it then solicits some noted American, often a Hollywood actor, to appear in behalf of the case and answer questions for prizes

Mrs. Anderson has been bedridden for eight years. Two weeks ago her leg was amputated and one week ago her husband died. Her name was submitted by a neighbor, Mrs. Irvin Anderson.

The program can be heard in this area over station KMTV, channel three.

POLK CEMETERY IS BEAUTIFIED BY LANDSCAPING PROGRAM

The Polk Cemetery has been baeutified by an extensive landscaping program.

Under the direction of the York Floral & Garden Shop the center horseshoe drive which previously has been outlined with small cedars, was planted with two centers of dogwood, flowering quince, red and white spirea, and barbery shrubs.

Donating their labor to help put out the shrubbery were Clarence Rodine, Arlo Stevens, Chauncey Gustafson, Gerald Stevens, Joe Ehn, S. J. Harless, Harold Carlson, Mrs. Glenn Hill, Mrs. Irvin Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hahn.

Rhubarb rhubarb occurs in Polk

1970

POLK — An ambitious night owl found it's best to stay in the nest.

A local lady, who wishes to remain anonymous, decided after returning from a late meeting to prepare some rhubarb.

In the process of getting the fruit from her car, the house and car doors shut almost simultaneously, necessitating a mile walk to her sister's home.

Early the next morning the two women returned and "broke in" the house via a basement window.

Only damage was a few scratches on the lady's "exterior" and a sudden dislike for rhubarb.

Polk 12-Year-Old Has the Answer For Her Mother

1958

POLK (Special)—The mother of a 12-year-old is having a bit of trouble understanding her daughter. The young child had all day been unable to get any work done. She'd spend an hour doing a few dishes. The radio blaring, using the dish towel for a sarong, she'd sing rock 'n roll...

The beds were made topsy-turvy, the girl had giggled and gabbed on the telephone to her girl friends.

Finally, in desperation, the mother said, "My, it's hard to understand you. You jump from here to there—never seem to do anything well, or keep your mind on what you are doing."

The daughter stopped and looked at up at her mother in surprise. "Oh, don't worry mother. I'll get over it. I'm just going through the awkward age."

Polk High Golden Anniversary Class

1972

Back row: Ralph Peterson, Columbus; Wayne Stevens, Ewing; Willard Adelson, Polk; front row: Mrs. Blanche (Stevens) Sundberg, Stromsburg; Mrs. Ellen (Erickson) Anderson, Hordville; Principal in 1922, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Hastings; and Mrs. Mildred (Stevens) Anderson, Stromsburg.

Only Anniversary Class to have their principal of 50yrs. ago attend

Polk Educators Have Host of Children on Christmas

Dec. 18-1955

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—Mrs. Henry Horstman and her husband, retired Polk Superintendent of Schools, have no children but they won't be lonely at Christmas.

Mrs. Horstman this year is observing her twenty-fifth anniversary of teaching. Her years but was forced to retire in 1942 because of a heart ailment.

"Loving other people's children opens many doors," Mrs. Horstman said Mrs. Horstman Saturday. And this is a key to the reason the two are one of the community's best-liked couples.

Their romance started at Loup City, where both were rural teachers. Their districts were 10 miles apart. But that proved no barrier.

Mr. Horstman loved to walk and to trap. So often after school and on Saturday's he'd walk the intervening miles, sometimes caring for a trap line along the way.

Tthey have been active in the Polk Baptist Church. Mr. Horstman as trustee and Mrs. Horstman as superintendent of the primary Sunday schol. Mrs. Horstman teaches the fifth grade.

Polk Resident, 81, Growing Busier--Song Published

he World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—To many, the 80-year milestone brings a marked decline in activity, but not to Mrs. Seth Piper.

Mrs. Piper will be 81 soon. She recently composed a song and has it published and copyrighted. The theme of the composition entitled "The Clock with the Hands of Gold," is about a mother.

"I think I will try my hand at writing some more," she said.

Mrs. Piper always has been busy. She was one of Nebraska's first 4-H leaders—back in 1922. She led a sewing club of 18 girls. The late L. I. Frisbie, State 4-H Club Leader, told her she had one of the best units in the state.

"But there were not many in the state then," she said with a twinkle in her eye.

During the flu epidemic she started working as a home nurse. For the next 25 years she was kept on the jump, serving in Omaha, Big Springs, Osceola, Arcadia and other points.

The Pipers have lived on a farm most of their lives. Mr. Piper, 86, never has owned a tractor and until recent years farmed his 80 acres with horses. His team for the last 20 years, "May and Mable," still help him tend 20 sheep and a flock of chickens.

—World-Herald News Service Photo.

Mrs. Piper . . . nurse, too.

Sept 25-1955

Polk Smithy Keeps Up With Machine Age; Invents 5th Gear for Tractor

1949

Polk, Neb.—The village smithy here has not gone out of business with the advent of the mechanical age.

Blacksmith Wilbur Whitacre has kept abreast of the times as horses gradually disappeared from the agricultural scene. Now he has a trailer patent pending that should keep his forge glowing.

Mr. Whitacre has made a fifth gear for a certain make of tractor which will enable it to travel at a high rate of speed.

He tried his invention out about two years ago. It was so successful he applied for a patent.

He has made about a thousand of the fifth gears in his shop. Effective this month the Behlens Manufacturing Company of Columbus will manufacture them, at the rate of about a hundred a day.

A company in Illinois has asked for a day's output each week. There are said to be more than 300 thousand tractors in the United States without this gear.

Mr. Whitacre, 45, is as widely known in this vicinity for his tenor voice as his skill at the forge. He has sung at weddings, funerals and anniversaries throughout the area.

"I'm not expecting to make a million on my patent," he says, "but it should give me a mighty nice old-age nest egg."

Mrs. Arlo Stevens and Mrs. M. O. Johnson will hear both "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Birthday" on December 25. Both were born on Christmas.

Bad Luck Seems to Follow Polk Woman

Aug 10 1955

POLK (Special) — Mrs. A .E. Swanson wonders if bad luck is following her.

Last winter she fell and broke a wrist. Her hand was in a cast for weeks.

Last week the fingers of the same hand were caught in a washing machine wringer, and badly torn.

When she went to the doctor she found she has a kidney in-fection, for which she is now g treatment.

Farmer at Polk Loses 3 Steers

Jan 27 1955

POLK (Special) — Max Jones, farmer livng southwest of Polk, lost three head of steers in an unusual way.

They drowned in the dam at the Henry Schultz farm. One of the three was pulled out alive, but even after treatment did not survive. One more is believed to be at the bottom of the pit.

Mr. Schultz's dam is one of the few in the Polk Community, so when it was reported that Mr. Jones had lost steers by drowning there was puzzlement as to where there was enough water in this community to drown steers.

Polk woman wins $5,000 award

May 2 1955

POLK — (Special) — Mrs. Robert Stohl, 47, wife of a Polk farmer, enjoyed an experience in Omaha Monday which comes to relatively few persons—she was presented with a check for $5,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Stohl were in Omaha a couple of weeks ago and visited the city's big Home Show, registering for various drawings in connection with the exhibition. She was notified last weekend that she had received the top prize of $5,000, and returned Monday to accept the check.

Mrs. Stohl was in Omaha originally to have X-ray treatments for cancer, and her husband has also been treated for cancer at the Mayo clinic. So she has earmarked 10 per cent of her prize to be divided between the Polk county Cancer Fund and her church, the Calvary Lutheran church at Swede Home.

Motor Works Well—Too Well

POLK — When Roy Warner bought a motor for his boat he decided to give it (the motor) a trial in his stock tank before taking it on a fishing trip to Minnesota.

The motor worked fine—too well for two dozen large gold-fish-inhabitants of the stock tank.

The fish were killed, and that's why Warner is in the doghouse with the owners of the fish, his three children.

Ice Shortage Not Nylons is Polk's Biggest Problem

POLK, Aug. 28—(Special)—In most places nylons will cause a rush of customers, but in Polk it's a far different commodity whose scarcity has become acute—ice.

At the present time only six large cakes are received in Polk each day at the ice-house near Andy's cafe. Its first come, first served, and those wanting some have learned they must arrive before 6:30 a. m.

The latest story going the rounds concerns the Hordville man who drove five miles to beat the rush, arriving at 5:30 a. m. As no one else had arrived yet, he decided to take a nap.

He awoke about an hour later, only to find that all the ice was gone.

Polk

Mrs. S. J. Harless is again suffering from the results of a fall. Her right arm is in a cast and will be for four weeks because she slipped and fell on the steps of her back porch. She also bruised her face and broke her glasses. She was going outside to water some of the plants of her lovely flower garden. Two years age she took a tumble on the same back porch, breaking her left arm. She had it in a cast for several weeks then. Mr. Harless says, "I'll have to be chief cook and bottle washer again "The Harless's celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary in Januarv

Polk—When Linda Kay Gustafson, 3, takes part in the Methodist Christmas program December 23 she will be the fifth generation of the Stevens family to speak a piece in the church.

Her great-great-grandfather, James Edmund Stevens, was one of the church founders. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Roger Gustafson, her grandparents Oscar and Beulah Stevens Gustafson of Clarks and great-grandfather William Stevens.

1941

A Polk couple tell this one on themselves. Devout television fans, they hadn't seen a movie in four years. Hearing of a good show at a theatre fifteen miles away, they decided to turn off TV and go see it. They arrived at the cashier's booth.

Suddenly the husband discovered he'd left his billfold at home. Quickly he asked his wife to put up the money. But she'd left her purse at home too.

They returned to Polk — to watch television

HOT AIR TO DRY CORN

Gilbert Benson, who is known throughout this section for his ingenious ideas, has rigged up an outfit to dry corn, which is attracting a lot of attention. He had his grain separator pulled up to the 7000 bushel pile of corn owned by himself and Lloyd Hahn; bought a hot air furnace and is attempting to dry the wet corn. From what we hear, it works. Even the boards get hot.

Yearn for Snuff Costs Farmer Teeth

Polk—A chew of his favorite snuff cost Harvey Hahn his lower set of teeth.

Driving down the road on his tractor when the yearn for a chew struck him, Mr. Hahn, as is his custom, first removed his plate.

The tractor swayed and the denture fell from his hand, falling under a back wheel, smashing the plate into 15 pieces.

Mr. Hahn doesn't plan on giving up his snuff, he says. He will just be more careful.

Nebraska Notes—

Polk Farmer Decorates Fifty-Foot Tree

1950

One of the most famous Christmas decorations in Polk County is the 50-foot tree on the A. E. Swanson farm a mile west of Polk; Mr. Swanson has placed three hundred lights on the tree, topped by a neon star, and keeps tht display lighted every night until midnight

X-ray in Overalls Drafty Business

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—A Polk farmer has this advice—never wear bib overalls when you visit a mobile tuberculosis X-ray testing unit.

The farmer explained:

"First they told me to unbuckle my suspenders. Then they told me to put my hands straight out.

"That did it!"

Polk Commercial Club is Busy Repairing Road

1950

POLK, Aug. 9 (Special)—Ordinarily, come August, the Polk Commercial Club would be spending time, money and effort talking and planning the Fall Festival days, but this year they have another project.

The club is sponsoring the repair of the two mile stretch of highway west of Polk that "gave out" in last winter's snow and the spring rains so that even tractor travel was impossible at times. Farmers within two miles found it easier to get to Grand Island, 35 miles away.

Twenty-two businessmen and 25 farmers are donating labor and use of tractors, trucks and dirt loaders to help state and county equipment get the road in shape for better travel. Leo Wurtz, club president, is at the helm for these voluntary services.

The state is furnishing a grading outfit, Polk county is taking out the trees, and the Commercial Club is spending $150 for fuel, lunches, etc., as well as rounding up necessary men to donate labor. About two weeks will be required to complete the job.

Women are said to be the on... who go mostly to social functions and especially like weddings, but Jerold Ruzicka, Polk farmer, who tried to get in on three weddings Saturday and was best man in Omaha to one on Thursday before, said kissing the bride almost got to be routine business. He sang Saturday morning at the wedding of Ruth Richards of Osceola and Paul Jacquet of Long Pine at the Catholic church there, then rushed to Dwight to attend the wedding dinner of his niece Margare Houdeck to Ivan Hottovy (He had to miss the wedding ceremony). He had also wanted to attend the wedding of a friend, Don Tomas, at Utica, but he couldn't make that one. Thursday he'd been best man, ring bearer, chauffeur and witness for the wedding of a relative in Omaha, Ann Porkenasy to Henry Zwissler at Blessed Sacrament church.

Youths drive car home --- backwards

POLK (UPI)—Two Polk youths, who were working 11 miles from home and couldn't get their car to go home forwards...drove it backwards.

Yes, all 11 miles.

The boys report that they got plenty of sneers from onlookers but they carefully stopped at every crossing, drove slowly, and "got along fine."

Dream is cause of broken arm

POLK — (Special)—Calvin Crow won't be able to play with his Christmas toys too well. He's carrying his arm in a sling.

Calvin, who is 10, watched the Christmas story of Scrooge and his dreams over television. After retiring he began to dream of the old man and of Tiny Tim . . . result, he fell out of bed. A hurried trip to the doctor disclosed a broken arm.

"He not only cut down on his Christmas fun, but his accident cut quite a hole in our Christmas budget," said his mother, Mrs. Sidney Crow, who added with a chuckle, "I hope he doesn't do any more of that kind of dreaming."

Dials Aurora, Gets The Pentagon

1971

They said it never could happen—but it did.

Central Citian Ann O'Shea, school nurse employed during the summer months at the Parkview Nursing direct dialed the Pentagon in Washinton, D. C.

Although the Pentagon has an unlisted number, Mrs. O'Shea talked to the switch board operator in the Pentagon last Wednesday.

Imagine Mrs. O'Shea's surprise when she dialed the number of the Aurora Clinic seventeen miles away, and found herself connected with the telephone operator in the Pentagon in the nation's capital.

Advised that there is no listed number for the Pentagon, Mrs. O'Shea won't believe it.

Polk Women finds eating two dinners better than telling

POLK — A Polk woman says that eating two dinners within two hours is better than confessing to her husband that she forgot a dinner date with him.

The woman in question, who incidentally is trying to lose weight, attended a meeting out of town with a group of Polk women. One of them announced it was her birthday and the women decided to celebrate by eating steak dinner at 5 p.m. at Central City.

Arriving home at 6:30 p.m., her husband in best "bib and tucker" reminded of their dinner plans. She gulped—she'd forgotten.

She went to dinner No. 2, n...ver telling a soul she had already eaten her evening meal. Her praise of the food was lavish as she ate along with the other guests.

Next morning she confided to a friend, "I didn't mind the stomach ache, as much as seeing the bathroom scale register a five pound gain in weight".

CIVIC MINDED YOUTHS TURN SIGN PAINTERS

July 11 1955

Seven civic and safety minded Polk youngsters, ranging in age from 9 to 14 years, and all members of the Boxer Beef 4-H club have suddenly embarked on a new project, sign painting.

Two large signs, each measuring five by six feet, have been placed at the town's entrance by the group. One reads "The Boxer Beef 4-H Club Welcomes You," the other, "Drive Carefully."

The seven youth, Gweynyel Johnson, Harold Anderson, Teddy Gleim, Ronnie Johnson, Glenn Dobberstein, Teddy Adelson and Dwayne Johnson, under direction of Eddie Dobberstein and Harry Anderson, leaders, spent about 50 hours in measuring, sawing, painting and erecting the two signs. The cost ran around $17, according to Mr. Dobberstein. The club has been organized for three years. Woodcarving is also a project of club members.

RETURN FROM TWO MONTHS TOUR OF PAKISTAN AND MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Burney returned last week from a two months trip that took them halfway around the world. They accompanied six other U. S. Farm Leaders on a Study Tour which took them into both East Pakistan and West Pakistan. They also toured in the Holy Lands, and in Egypt; made stops at Athens, Greece, Rome, and Milan, Italy around the Isle of Capri and over the beautiful Swiss Alps with a stop at Paris.

Several days were spent in Washington, D. C. meeting with officials of the State and Agricultural Departments. Also a meeting at the Pakistan Embassy.

Polk Could Be Called Village of Widows

April 7 1960

Polk—The small village of Polk could be deemed the village of widows, for over 10% of the persons who reside in this town of 510 population are widows.

A recent count showed 55 widows, but only four widowers. As one widow jokingly said, "This may be Leap year, but one's chances are pretty slim of winning". Incidentally, there are seven unmarried elderly ladies and seven bachelors all past 50 years of age.

About 80% of the widows reside in a house by themselves. Over a third are past 75 years of age.

Kid Brother Not Welcome Now

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb. — Two Polk children are not going to take their three-year-old brother to school as a visitor again.

Sister sent little brother to her girl friend in the back of the room with a whispered request for the answer to a problem. Little brother shouted from the rear: "She hasn't got it yet."

The boy later was in the sixth grade with his older brother. The teacher accused one of older brother's friends of shooting a water gun. Little brother clinched it with: "I saw him do it."

TheCenter Bus lines of Columbus with Ed Robbins, driver, furnished transportation. Ozarka

Getting on the bus at Polk were Mrs. Marie Pierpont, of Grand Island, Mrs. Ellen Spires of Kearney, Mesdames Ben Peterson, Nettie Carlson, Irvin Anderson, Ted Janky, Sadie Clark, Ella Rudy, Will Steel, Clarence Johnson, Lloyd Hahn also Mrs. Roy Nelson of Clarks and Mrs. Emma Horstman Mrs. P. W. Aker, Mrs. Elmer Hanquist and Mrs. Oliver Baker.

The group plan a get-to-gether Saturday evening Nov. 26th at the Community Hall at Polk at 7:30 p. m. to view the movies and colored slides taken by the group.

It Happened in Nebraska:

And What Makes Wives So Fussy?

A Polk man was going to an auction and his wife said if there was a good second-hand dresser for sale to buy it.

He came home with a buffet. When his exasperated wife asked why in the world he purchased that piece, he explained:

"I thought it was a dresser — it had a mirror and quite a few drawers."

Jane Kealiher Is Top Livestock Judge

Jane Kealiher, a York County 4-Her from Polk, won a Hereford steer calf Saturday for her top individual score in a livestock judging contest at York.

The contest was a part of the Nebraska Junior Stock Growers Association annual field day. Miss Kealiher, 15, is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Noel Kealiher of Polk and a member of the Lively Livestock 4-H Club at Benedict.

She won the calf with a high score of 317 points. The Hereford was donated by Milldale Ranch Co. of North Platte. It will be presented to her this fall with the idea that it could be used for show next summer.

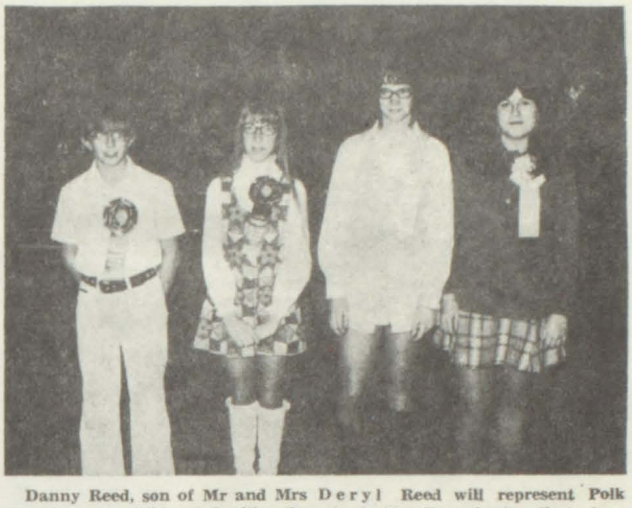
POLKITES ON RADIO PROGRAM

Mrs. Irvin Anderson and Mrs. Lloyd Hahn were heard by this reporter and other Polk listeners on the Welcome Travelers Radio program Wednesday, October 12 from Chicago. The two ladies talked about ten minutes to Tommy Bartlett, master of ceremonies and told all about their life in Polk. After correctly answering a question on Nebraska, they were taken on a sight-seeing tour of Polk Street in Chicago, each given a train case with fitted Max Factor cosmetics, two dinners at O'Donnell's Seafood Grill in Washington, D. C., two dinners at Jack Dempsey's Restaurant in New York City and two tickets to the Broadway production "Blackout". They also were given a box of Dreft each, as this is what the program advertises.

Has Winter Bouquet "On Her Hands"

POLK — (Special) — Mrs. Raymond Sundberg has her winter bouquet "on her hands." A member of the Country Women's club, Mrs. Sundberg inadvertently picked poison ivy when she and the other members gathered weeds, leaves and flowers to make winter bouquets at their November meeting.

Polk's Danny Reed Is Champion Speller



Danny Reed, son of Mr and Mrs Deryl Reed will represent Polk County at the Midwest Spelling Bee, April 21, after winning first place in the 7th and 8th grade division. He missed only one out of a hundred. Lori Hanquist, daughter of Mr and Mrs Don Hanquist was second. She missed 4 of 100. The two to the right are 5th and 6th grade winners, Diane Johnson and Lori Rosenquist of the Stromsburg school.

Ex-Polk Man Doing Well

POLK (Special)—Marlan Peterson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a former Polk resident known as "The Singing Farmer," is making a name for himself in the entertainment field.

His latest accomplishment is the making of a recording "Memories Are Made of These." The album of records was inspired by requests from fans and are the songs most often called for when he sings throughtout the midwest.

Peterson, who says he has loved to sing since a baby, graduated from Polk in 1935.

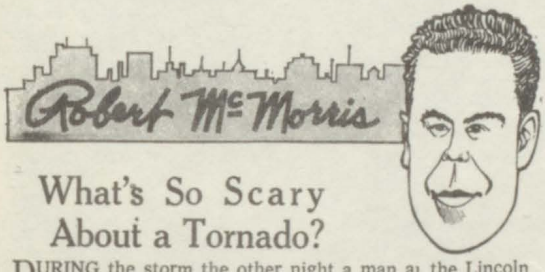
He has sung for church groups, at weddings, funerals, for hospital patients, and appeared "for free" at civic and community gatherings for many years, making more than 1,000 appearances Of late he has had to charge, because of the growing demand. He raises beef cattle and does all the farmin on his farm near Cedar Rapids. Hhe had his own radio show at Cedar Rapids for three years.

Marlan Peterson . . . hobby paying dividends.

Peterson, visiting his aunts and cousins at Polk recently, autographed over 50 records. His has been a hobby that is now paying dividends.

Evening World-Herald, Saturday, May 29, 1965

Polk News



What's So Scary About a Tornado?

DURING the storm the other night a man at the Lincoln Weather Bureau made an urgent telephone call to Polk, Neb.

He wanted the Polk Fire Department (telephone number: 2221). Instead the call went through to Mrs. Dwight Burney, wife of the former Governor (telephone: 2121).

The weather man asked Mrs. Burney to relay the message: A tornado had been sighted six to eight miles west of Polk.

Mrs. Burney called not only the Fire Department, but several relatives and friends, including a neighbor, Mrs. Glenn Babcock. Mrs. Babcock, who was at home playing cards with Mrs. Neil McNaught, suggested that they all grab flashlights and head for a cave about a block away. Mrs. Burney and Mrs. McNaught agreed.

It happened, though, that the cave was located on property owned by the Wall Mortuary. When the women entered the cave their flashlights picked out the hair-raising sight of two burial vaults standing on end.

The women screamed, dropped their flashlights and dashed outside, prepared to take their chances with the tornado.

MRS. WALL HEADS DIRECTORS

Mrs Sam Wall (Vi) was recently elected president of Central Nebraska Dist. 8, State Funeral Directors Association. There are 34 mortuaries in the area she serves as president.

Vi has been active n state association activities, has served as Chairman and co-chairman on many state committees, At the last state convention, held in Omaha, recognition was given Vi for attending the state convention for 35 consecutive years.

Sam and Vi own and operate the Wall Funeral Home in Polk and Hampton.

Over 4000 Letters To Her Sons In The Service

Mrs. Hannah Hahn has compiled a letter writing record that to say the least is remarkable.

Since February, 1943 when her oldest son, Donald, volunteered for the navy she has written a total of 4008 letters to her sons in the service.

She wrote to Donald every day while he was in the navy. That was three years and six months of continuous daily writing. 1275 letters.

Dwayne, the third oldest son, was the second son to join the service. He joined the army in 1946. He was in the service for 2 years and during that time Mrs. Hahn wrote him a letter every day. 730 letters.

Dennis, the second oldest, was the third son to join the service. He was in the navy for four years, 1948-52, and during that time his mother estimated that he received 1200 letters.

The fourth son to join the service was Doyle. He joined the navy in 1952. He has spent 20 months on Guam. During that time he received a daily letter from his mother. He is now stationed in California and will be discharged in May, 1956. 892 letters.

Delano is the fifth son to join the service. He volunteered for army duty and was inducted into the service July 19, 1955. Mrs. Hahn wrote Delano his first letter from home last Saturday.

It all adds up to 4008 letters at the present time and that total will grow while Doyle and Delano are in the service.

On being asked why she had written so often, Mrs. Hahn replied that Mail Call was important to the boys in the service. Her sons all appreciated getting letters and she made sure there was always a letter from home when the mail was passed out.

The letters from home have all been sent airmail. Figuring 6 cents a letter, the postage since 1943 has amounted to 240.48

Just to complete the family roster, there are two more sons, Darwin and Dolan at home. Also two daughters, Mrs. George Swanson (Arlene) and Shirley who both live in Minnesota.

Men of Polk Shovel Coal Despite Heat

Polk, Neb. (Special)—Men of Polk found themselves shoveling coal Saturday, one of the hottest days of the year.

The coal was part of 40 tons put in the school building for winter use. It began generating heat. Assistant State Fire Marshal Enoch Ekstrand of Lincoln advised immediate removal.

All day Saturday men were busy getting coal out of the bins and scattering it on the school grounds. Calls were sent out on the rural telephone lines for assistance. A fire engine stood by in case the coal ignited.

Here's a Switch; Old-Timer Says Winter Was Warm

Febr 15, 1955

POLK (Special) — Tales of warmer days have been going the rounds with the old timers during the days of severe cold weather of the past week.

Oscar Fredrickson, 84, father of Polk's Mayor Marvin Fredrickson, told this one to the Rev. W. C. Birmingham, Methodist minister, as the two were chatting.

"Back in the winter of 1890 it was not only warm, but very dry. A group of us young men one Sunday afternoon at Swede Home held a race. The race was unusual for we all took off our shoes and socks and raced barefoot. And how we stirred up the dust. Nobody caught cold, for the day was warm and beautiful, even if it was January."

Mr. Fredrickson is a retired farmer, and has lived in Polk County more than 75 years.

Polk Woman Gets Ike's 'Thank You'

Nov 1956

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—Mrs. Margaret Doremus last week received a prized piece of mail—a thank-you from the President of the United States.

Mrs. Doremus crocheted a white baby dress for President Eisenhower's new granddaughter—pineapple pattern with pink satin bows at waist and neckline.

"We are one of the few families in this community without electricity," she wrote the President. "So this dress is a bit unusual in that part of it was crocheted by lamplight."

Mountain Lion Is Reported in Vicinity of Polk

POLK (Special) — Burdette Flodman, cruising in his private airplane spotted a mountain lion in the area about seven miles north of Polk.

A farmer in the Clarks area several weeks ago reported seeing a mountain lion, and another saw tracks in his farm lot which resembled lion's feet marks.

Flodman plans an intensive hunt for the beast.

2 Brothers, Sister Reunited in Polk; Separated 48 Years

1950

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—Two brothers and a sister who had not seen each other for 48 years recently held an unexpected reunion in this community.

They are Henry Pierson, Chicago; Mrs. Martin Hoffman, resident near Polk, and S. S. Pierson, who lives near Marquette.

The family was seperated when the children were small. The father, John Pierson; Henry and an older sister returned to Mr. Pierson's native Sweden about 48 years ago.

Thirteen years later the father returned to this country with Henry and located on a farm in Illinois, later operating a dairy near Chicago.

This year Henry and his wife planned a trip to the West Coast, scheduling a stop in Nebraska to visit Mr. Pierson's boyhood town.

At Polk Mr. Pierson stopped in a cafe to inquire if the proprietor knew of a Florence Pierson.

The cafe proprietor's father, Dr. R. L. Peterson, happened to be in the cafe at that time. He remembered that a Florence Pierson had married Martin Hoffman nad directed Mr. Pierson to the Hoffman home.

The two brothers and sister had a brief visit before the brother from Chicago went on to California. He plans a longer visit when he returns from the West.

Grandma Enjoys Wonderful Time

Polk, Neb. (AP) — It's grandma, not the youngsters, who has to be urged to turn off the radio and go to bed at the Charles Lytle home here.

Grandma is Mrs. Lillie F. King, 94, who admittedly eats the wrong things and has a wonderful time.

Mrs. King is the widow of Bernard King, believed to be the first licensed undertaker to venture west of Lincoln. He was a mortician at York 33 years.

Mrs. King makes the most of her days. She's the first up at the Lytle household in the morning, and the last to turn off the radio and go to bed at night. She doesn't take any daytime naps, either.

For activities, she quilts, embroiders, crochets rag rugs, tats and knits. For 54 years she has been a member of the Eastern Star.

She came to Nebraska 68 years ago, the family first living at Bradshaw, then at Fremont.

Forgetful Couple Saves 2 Tickets

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—A Polk husband and wife are enjoying a joke on themselves.

For four years they had not seen a movie. Hearing of an outstanding attraction at Central City they decided to drive over.

They arrived at the cashier's booth and the husband discovered he had left his billfold at home. He turned to his wife—but she had forgotten her purse.

They returned to Polk and watched television.

Practical Joke Gives Patient Heavenly Scare

POLK (Special) — Richard Sealey, Polk, wasn't quite sure the other day whether he was on earth or had died.

He and Charles Lytle, also of Polk, were fellow patients in the new Annie Jeffrey Memorial Hospital at Osceola. Just before Lytle was to be dismissed from the hospital, he found Sealey asleep. So he took all the bouquets given him and Sealey in the last few days and draped them over the sleeping form.

When Sealey, on awakening found himself covered with flowers, it was a little startling.

"There are several ways to get a glimpse of Paradise," he commented later.

oct 27-1955

The World-Herald's News Service. 1955

Gothenburg, Neb.—More than a thousand boys and girls have come to know and love Fern Myers, kindergarten teacher here a quarter-century.

Her willingness to go beyond the classroom in helping them has endeared Miss Myers to pupils throughout the years.

In 1942, she helped start a tuberculosis test in which about one thousand persons were tested. She is responsible for a program of physical check-ups for all pre-school youngsters.

MacArthur 'Mansion' Thrills Polk Soldier

Polk, Neb. (AP)—A Polk GI who saw General MacArthur's home in Manila describes it as a "mansion" with "pure white rugs that would have made good mattresses for me."

S. Sgt. Harvey Sundberg wrote his wife that he was called to the General's home to repair two telephones.

"In two rooms they had four parlor sets. Yet in each there would have been room for a large dance. The bathroom has its own barber chair.

"In the drawing room was a gorgeous piano. I lifted the lid and struck a few notes just to say I had played on the General's piano."

Teacher Honored On Birthday

nov 25 1954

The Home Builders Class of the Methodist Sunday School honored their teacher, Mrs. C. J. McCoy, by having a birthday party Friday evening for her 70th birthday anniversary. She has taught the class for 26 years.

Her favorite television program is "This is Your Life", so the group decided to re-enact her life as the [illegible] feature.

Tylers Go "All Out"

Polk--Some folks really "go all out" to please. Wayne Tyler made a flying trip to accommodate church folks.

Mr. and Mrs. Tyler, who with their son-in-law and daughter, Rev. and Mrs. Dick Trotter of Miller, S. D., recently made a trip to the Holy Lands. They'd promised to show slides and tell of the trip Sunday evening at the Presbyterian Church at Central City.

But come Friday the pictures, which had been on loan to the Trotters and sent by them over a month ago to Denver for reprints, had not arrived back at the Miller home. They arrived Saturday. The distance between Polk and the Miller home is 300 miles. Neither wanted to drive by car 600 mile round trip.

But the problem was solved by the Trotters taking the pictures to lake Andes, S. D. , about 80 miles from their home. Then, Wayne, a World War II pilot, drove to Columbus, rented a small plane and flew to lake Andes, 220 miles away, for the needed pictures for the "show and tell".

"It was a nice day, my wife was a good co-pilot, and besides it is rather fun to get back in the pilot's seat again," said Wayne.

W. A. Stevens, 76-year-old farmer near Polk took his first plane ride last Friday to see Polk from the air. "Now I've seen Polk in all ways," he said. He was here when the town started 40 years ago. 1946

UNLOCKS CAR WITH STICK OF GUM

Mrs Larry Coover brought in the write-up of the Stromberg family reunion, Monday afternoon. She left her young son Eddie in the car, with windows rolled up. Eddie pushed down the lock buttons on the car doors When Mrs Coover returned to her car, she found herself locked out and the keys in the car. A stick of gum proved an effective key. Holding it up so her young son could see it caused Eddie to push down on the car handle, opening the door from the inside.

RAY SEALEY CELEBRATES 85TH BIRTHDAY WITH UNIQUE PHONE CALL

1969

Ray Sealey of Denver, Colorado and a former resident of this locality was happily surprised on his 85th birthday last Nov. 4th, when his son Dick arranged for a conference telephone call for him. Nine relatives in this area talked to him from their home on a chain hook-up that evening to wish him a happy birthday.

GILBERT CELEBRATES 7TH BUT WHICH ONE?

Gilbert Lampshire had always thought his lucky number was 7. He was the 7th child born to Mr. and Mrs. John Lampshire and he was born on November 7th, he thought—and had celebrated that date for over 60 years.

But recently he had to get a birth certificate. Statistics and records showed October 7th as his birth date.

"Just doesn't seem right. I think I will still celebrate in November", said Gilbert. His mother died when he was small and records became scattered. 1969

Hilding Strand sed he wore a pair of glasses for two days, wondering why they gave him trouble particularly when reading the daily paper. He finally discovered what was the trouble, when he took them off to wipe them, and found one lens missing.

Oct. 3 1968 □ □ □

Polk Dog Is Popular

POLK (Special Dispatch) — A neighbor's barking dog averted considerable damage in a fire at the home of Mrs. Nettie Carlson and her two sons near Polk early this morning.

The barking of their Cocker Spaniel, Shep, awakened Mr. and Mrs. Ted Dittmer about 4:30 or 5 o'clock this morning. They then saw a fire a couple of miles south of their home.

They drove to the Carlson farm and awakened Mrs. Carlson and her sons. A shed on the farm was ablaze.

Because of the warning, however, some calves and pigs were removed with only singes. Several thousand bushels of corn, stored nearby, were not damaged. The fire, however, burned a tractor as well as about 200 bushels of milo.

X-ray in Overalls Drafty Business

1963

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—A Polk farmer has this advice—never wear bib overalls when you visit a mobile tuberculosis X-ray testing unit.

The farmer explained:

"First they told me to unbuckle my suspenders. Then they told me to put my hands straight out.

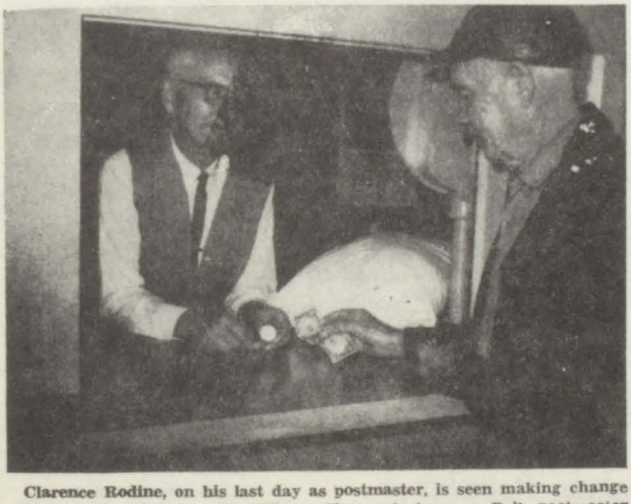
"That did it!"

Frank Cohagan Grows 50 Pound Watermelon

1973

The largest product from Frank Cohagan's 1973 garden is a 50 lb. watermelon he harvested last week. His friend and neighbor, Joe Ehn, bought it. Frank was asked if he guaranteed the ripeness. He replied, "Nosir. I sold it like they do on pubilc auctions. Terms cash. No property to be removed until settled for. All property at buyer's risk when bid off. Not responsible for accidents. If Joe drops it, that's his fault."

More POLK News



Clarence Rodine, on his last day as postmaster, is seen making change with a daily customer, Jim Wilson. Clarence's term as Polk pastmaster ended February 28. Lee Bayer, former assistant, is the acting postmaster for the coming year. March 1969

Swimmng seemed to be a disease which had taken quite a hold on Polk young people and they say the Platte is fine. (No nice, modern swimmng pools in those days.) 1924

Last of Pack Peddlers Dies; Buried by County

Old Mons Person, last of the pack peddlers who once brought pins, spools of thread, cheap jewelry and the latest news to middle western farm homes, died Saturday at University hospital.

Polk county was Mons' territory. Three generations of Polk county farm people had learned to welcome him as he trudged —a stocky, white-bearded figure—down the dusty roads, carrying his stock in trade in two huge suitcases. Neither dust, rain nor snow ever halted Mons' rounds, until two years ago. Then he found the weight of the suitcases too much for his 78 years.

Polk county remembered Mons in death. The county paid to have his body returned to Hordville for burial, as he had no relatives and the body otherwise

Was an "Easy Mark."

Mons used to call at five or six houses in a day. At the final house, he would stay for supper, a night's lodging and breakfast.

Mons, an easy mark, once had an 80-acre farm in Polk county. He fell in love. The girl promised to marry him, so the story goes, if he would deed the farm to her. He signed the deed, and she took it, but she never married him.

He was a sucker, too, for bogus oil and mining stocks, and "hot shot" real estate deals. He would have had a small fortune if he had held onto his money.

The "Sure Shot" hog oiler company will move their stock and fixtures back to Polk from York and will manufacture the oilers in the Alex Scott building. Let's boost the Sure Shot and put Polk on the map as a manufacturing center. 1924

Return From Trip To Panama

April 1952

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Anderson returned Wednesday last week from Panama City, Panama where they vacationed for a week at the famous El Panama Hotel. They made the trip by airplane, going first to Miami, Florida, then to Havana, Cuba.

The trip to Panama was a gift from PurePac Corporation of New York City. Mrs. Anderson sent a top winning slogan to the company.

Lieut. Mac Gleim Deluged By Mail From German Frauleins

A Polk serviceman, Lieut. Mac Gleim, now serving aboard the fleet's largest carrier, the USS Saratoga, is literally deluged in mail from German Frauleins.

Proposals of marriage, petitions to find an Air Corps husband for the writer, and other such propositions have come his way since his picture and life story appeared in "Quick," a magazine in Germany comparable to "Life" in America. The writer, a German reporter who visited the Saratoga at Barcelona, Spain, took pictures of Lieut. Gleim, tracing his day from the time the alarm clock sounded in the morning until he took off in his aircraft. Included in the series of pictures was Gleim checking weather conditions, donning his flying suit, and riding the fast escalator to the top deck.

"It's a 'celebrity's' duty to answer fan mail," Gleim jokingly commented when the first fan letter arrived. These words back-fired for the officer...letters have been arriving so fast and furious that he can't keep up with them.

Lieut. Gleim has also been featured in a Movietone News reel and by Pathe; a German movie company has made television short subjects of him, and the ship's public relation officers and other members of the crew are said to follow his fan mail with interest.

One of the four remaining bachelors of the squadron on the Saratoga, Lieut. Gleim is 24 years of age. He is a 1951 graduate of Polk high school; attended Norfolk College two years and has since been on the Saratoga. He is making the Navy his career. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gleim, live between Polk and Stromsburg on a farm.

Navy Lieut. Ernie Gleim, 26, is also making the Navy his career. He was with NATO in 1953 in Africa and Iceland. Currently he is attending the University of Nebraska

Mr. Merry Flyer Dedicated

A "Mr. Merry Flyer" was dedicated at the Polk City Park, donated to the children of Polk community by Mrs. Lloyd Hahn and daughters, Natalie and Marilyn, in memory of the late Lloyd Hahn. Pictured are JoElla Stromberg, Mary Sue Lindburg, Gail Stevens and David Stromberg enjoying the new ride. Norris Alfred, member of the Village Board, accepted the gift that had been purchased by Mrs. Hahn from memorial money given at the time of Mr. Hahn's death this spring. August - 1963

Polk Woman Finds Way to Get Company

May 1963

POLK (Special) — An 82-year-old Polk woman made certain her several sons and daughters would write to her and come see her while she was hospitalized.

Before leaving for the hospital for major surgery, she told them, "I don't want to leave any cash money in the house while I'm gone. Here's $5 for each of you — for gas money. And here, too, is a book of stamps and some envelopes for each one.

All six took the hint and wrote and came to see her often.

Cookies Baked by the Gallons

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—Mrs. Paul Sagehorn will be ready "when the folks get home for Christmas"—she has baked enough cookies to fill 30 gallon jars.

She has 16 pies and a dozen loaves of bread in the deep freeze. Many of the jars hold cookies from special German recipes.

"It won't be any too many when all the grandchildren pour in," said Mrs. Sagehorn.

Polk Boy Breaks 100 Eggs for Meal

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—David Stromberg, 3, is in the dog house because of his activities in the chicken house.

He broke over a hundred eggs by hitting them against the wall of the chicken house.

Asked why he did it, he calmly replied:

"Well, the chickens hadn't had any breakfast and they wanted some."

David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Stromberg.

Dog's Fire Alarm Saves Polk Family

Jan. 31 - 1957

POLK, Nebr. — Shep, the one-year-old cocker spaniel of the Arthur Dittmer family of near Polk is receiving special attention today.

Barking loudly about 5:00 a. m. Monday, he awakened the Dittmers who saw a fire blazing south of them. The Dittmers got up immediately and drove two miles to the farm of Mrs. Nettie Carlson, woke up the residents and warned them of the burning farm building.

The Dittmers released calves and hogs from the building, but a tractor and 200 bushels of milo burned.

The Polk Fire Department prevented the fire from spreading to other farm buildings.

Nebraska Notes—

Troubles Multiply Rapidly for Farm Family at Polk

Members of the Leland Harless family of Polk have their fingers crossed as Christmas approaches after a string of mishaps: Mr. Harless caught his hand in a corn picker, had part of a finger amputated; son, Gary, broke his collarbone playing football, then got a bad case of the flu while home in bed with his shoulder strapped; Mr. Harless came home from the hospital and his injured hand became infected.

Nelson Popular Name in Polk

POLK, July 5. (Special)—There are nine families of Nelsons in Polk, but only three of them are related.

There are two August Nelsons, and three with the first initial "A." All of which often confuses mail clerks in this town of 532 population.

It Happened in Polk—

Daughter Prefers One-Course Meal

Daughter, 10, declined to accompany her parents to a Grand Island steakhouse for dinner. She preferred to spend the night with a girl friend.

Next morning daughter asked mother what she had had for dinner.

"Well," said mother, "we started with shrimp cocktails, then T-bone steaks, French-fried potatoes and a salad."

Mother added: "It was sure good. Don't you wish you had gone with us?"

"Nope," said daughter loftily. "We had something better than all that."

"What did you have?"

"Pancakes!"

MARCH 30, 1958

Awkward Stage Quick Diagnosis

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—The mother of a 12-year-old Polk girl was distraught after a day of trying to get the child to do her home chores.

The young daughter spent an hour doing a few dishes—radio blaring, dish towel serving as a sarong while daughter sang, rocked 'n' rolled. Beds were made topsy-turvy. Telephone was busy for long periods with giggling and gabbing.

In desperation, the mother said. "You never do anything well or keep your mind on what you're doing."

"Don't worry, mother," answered Age 12. "I'm just going through the awkward stage."

IT HAPPENED AT POLK

Polk, Neb., Jan. 8 —(U.P.)— Jim Reeves, 76, said today he doesn't plan to try the manual of arms again for some time. Reeves, a bachelor who has a hotel apartment here, was examining an old gun along with his friend, Godfrey Lindahl.

Since both were sure the gun wasn't loaded, Reeves began marching across the room with it army-style. Barking 'attention" he snapped-to and dropped the gun to the floor, butt down.

Both barrels went off and the charge struck the ceiling, showering the pair with plaster and startling the tenants upstairs.

Reeves, who hasn't been able to hear well since, doesn't plan any more drills.

ARBORVILLE CEMETERY

One of the older cemeteries of this Polk Community is about 4 miles south of Polk and known as the Arborville Cemetery. Started before the town of Polk was in existence, it has expanded and now has two areas - the old and the new.

Each Memorial Day services are held in this cemetery. The 1974 Cemetery Board Officials are Pres. - Maurice Flick, Clerk - John Wochner, Treas. - Floyd Merchant. Ed Recknor, Ted Otte and Dan Graves are also on the board.

Cost of lots is $30 per space in the west area, $27 in the east part.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CEMETERY

Near the Immanuel Lutheran Church, one-half mile east of Lyndale cemetery is the Immanuel Lutheran cemetery, where members and families of those of this German Lutheran Church lie buried. Funeral services held at the church walk only a short distance to the burial plots.

The trustees of the church are in charge of the cemetery. Three persons are appointed each year to be in charge of burials.

Dick Sagehorn, Lawrence Hoffman and Carl Blase are the present appointees. There are approximately 240 graves here.

LACLEDE CEMETERY

The Laclede Cemetery was organized in 1895 and the first grave was that of Johanna Lindburg (Mrs. C.H.) in 1896. This cemetery is a mile north of Polk.

1974 officers are: Ronald Sarow, Osceola, president; Mrs. Grant Willits, Sec.; M.G. Lindburg, Treas.

It costs about $150 for a lot with perpetual care.

LINDALE CEMETERY

Southwest of Polk about 4 miles is Lindale cemetery, formerly known as the Baptist Cemetery. For many years, Mrs. Thede and Mrs. Ed Larson mowed and tended the graves, and cared for the business of the cemetery. The first adult burial was in 1875, a Mr. A. Anderson, grandfather of Mildred Johnson and Alma Gustafson.

Their present officers are: Pres. - LeRoy Nelson; Sec. - Walter Nelson; Treas. - Raymond Sundberg.

On the board also are Robert Lindahl of Clarks, Dale Hanquist and Hugo Pearson. Cost per burial, with perpetual care is $25-$100 for a lot with room for four.

The 2 acre plot was donated by August Lind who died in 1879. There are 240 burials there.

PLEASANT HOME CEMETERY

The Pleasant Home Cemetery located southeast of Polk is often referred to as the Doremus Cemetery because it was near the Doremus farmsteads. It contains 3 acres, part of which was donated by the Judson Darrow family. The land was deeded to the Cemetery Association on October 30, 1879. Dates on the monuments give evidence that several were buried here before this land was incorporated as a cemetery site. The earliest one was in 1874 - infant son, of Isaiah and Kate Lutz.

Like so many old cemeteries, it has not been kept up these last years. There are relatively few marked graves.

POLK CEMETERY

The Polk cemetery located two miles east and one mile north of Polk was originally called the Shiloh Cemetery. Evidently, the name was suggested by the Civil War veterans living in this locality who fought in the battle of Shiloh. This ground is directly north of the former Cooper Church which was named in honor of N. P. the land for the Methodist Church. As the cemetery was so close it was commonly referred to as the Cooper cemetery.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Shiloh cemetery, dated January 22, 1880 were filed with County Clerk, I. F. Kelley at Osceola, Nebraska and signed by L.H. Cohoon, Jamier E. Stevens, George W. Hill, James Honess, J.R. Evens', James Sealey, N.P. Cooper and J.G. Knowles, Jamier E. Stevens was buried here just 5 months later. The one acre of ground for the cemetery was purchased from N.P. Cooper for $50.00 on February 3, 1880. The first lots were sold for $5 with sufficient space for six graves. The original cemetery plot had 56 lots in it. There were about 65 burials before 1900 in Shiloh cemetery.

In February 1900, an additional acre of land to the north was purchased for $35. When the Cooper Methodist Church was moved to Polk in 1907, the cemetery association acquired that space. A strip of land adjoining the cemetery to the north and south was later purchased from Oscar Stromberg for $160 an acre.

A windmill was erected and a fence added around the land. Programs were held at the cemeteries on Decoration Day and Fourth of July in early days. People came for miles around for these events. A program with a special speaker was held in the morning. Afterwards the entire group would walk through the cemetery in double file placing garden or wild flowers, such as wild roses or blue bells on the graves. A member of the veteran's family would place a flag on their soldier relative's grave.

In 1910 a small building 20 by 24 feet was built and paid for by contributions. In about 1950 it was sold to S.J. Harless and moved to his farm.

On May 23, 1917, the members of the Shiloh Cemetery changed the name to Polk Cemetery. The present Polk Cemetery was incorporated on June 28, 1929. In 1928 perpetual care was added to the price of the lots and cost advanced to $60. Over the 94 years, prices have ranged from the original $5 to the present $180 price per lot.

Many trees have been planted to add to the attractiveness of this cemetery. The row of trees to the east were planted by John Beardsley and William and Thede Stevens. Andy Carlson planted the small cedars around the drive. Shrubbery and two stone benches were added in 1958.

A committee headed by Mrs. Dwight Burney solicited funds to purchase markers for unmarked graves and also had the cemetery landscaped by York Landscaping Company. Mr. Wegner of Central City Monument Company donated time and stones and labor for grave mark-

ing.

Some of the people serving on the cemetery board were William A. Stevens, who was a long time president and officer for thirty years, and Thede Stevens, A.D. Dover, S.J. Harless, and Andy Carlson, who all served long terms. Other early board members included Alfred A. Peterson, Bert Darrow, James Honess, John Bush, James Sealey, A.O. Talbot, W.B. Lewis, Glenn Willits, H.C. Troyer, A.L. Streeter, Jamier E. Stevens, John Beardsley, Ray Sealey, Joseph C. McClure, Dick McConnell, Oscar Stromberg, Mrs. Alice Benjamin, Gust Ehn, Frank E. Peterson, Arnon Dover, Mrs. William A. Stevens, Dana Hurd, Mrs. A.D. Dover. Serving in later years have been Clair Willits, Albert E. Sundberg, Mrs. Dwight Burney, Mrs. Glenn Hill, Arlo A. Stevens, Clarence Rodine, and Gerald A. Stevens.

The present members of the Polk Cemetery Board in 1974 are Pres. Harold Carlson, Vice Pres. Paul W. Stevens, Sec. Norris Alfred, Treas. Mrs. Glenn Stevens. Trustees are Rolland Stromberg, Glenn Stevens and Arlo A. Stevens, Paul & Gerald R. Stevens.

SWEDE PLAIN CEMETERY

The Swede Plain Cemetery is located $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of the Swede Plain Church. It was surveyed and plotted by O.W. Barnes, County Surveyor in 1886, but prior to this there were several graves on this land. Charles F. Flodman bought this land from the railroad in 1888 and deeded it to the Swedish Methodist Church (now Swede Plain in 1902 for $25.00. The cemetery remained property until 1961 when it was voted to transfer it to the Cemetery Organization. They elected a Board of Trustees and established a perpetual care fund and summer caretaker.

The oldest marked grave is that of the 5 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O.P. Johnson, Lillie, who died in 1879. The second oldest marker is that of the wife of Rev. John A. Gabrielson, the Swede Plain minister, who died in 1880. Early lots sold for around $5.

Board officers are: Pres. -Willard Adelson, Sec. -Lennis Lind, Treas. -Lloyd Widga. Alvin Dahlin, Ilof Ostberg of Polk and William Norton of Osceola also serve on the board.

The cemetery is bounded by cedars and has a 24 foot drive through the center.

CONSIDER

Is anybody happier, because you passed his way?
Does anyone remember, that you spoke to him today?
This day is almost over, and its toiling time is through;
Is there anyone to utter now, a friendly word for you?
Can you say tonight in passing, with the day that slipped so fast,
That you helped a single person, of the many that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing, over what you did or said?
Does one whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?
Did you waste the day, or lose it?
Was it well or poorly spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?

A Tribute To The Memory Of Clyde A. Stevens
by O. A. Alfred

A Father, husband, brother, son has reached the journey's end,
In his departing will be missed, a true and loyal friend.
How can our thought be so expressed, that in it may abound,
A tribute to such love and care, as in his life was found.

We seek our place and plan our homes, upon this earthly sphere;
Then comes the call that severs all from such as we hold dear.
Why, it is so—and we must go, 'tis hard to understand,
But faith is blessed and God knows best—Hold fast therefore, His hand.

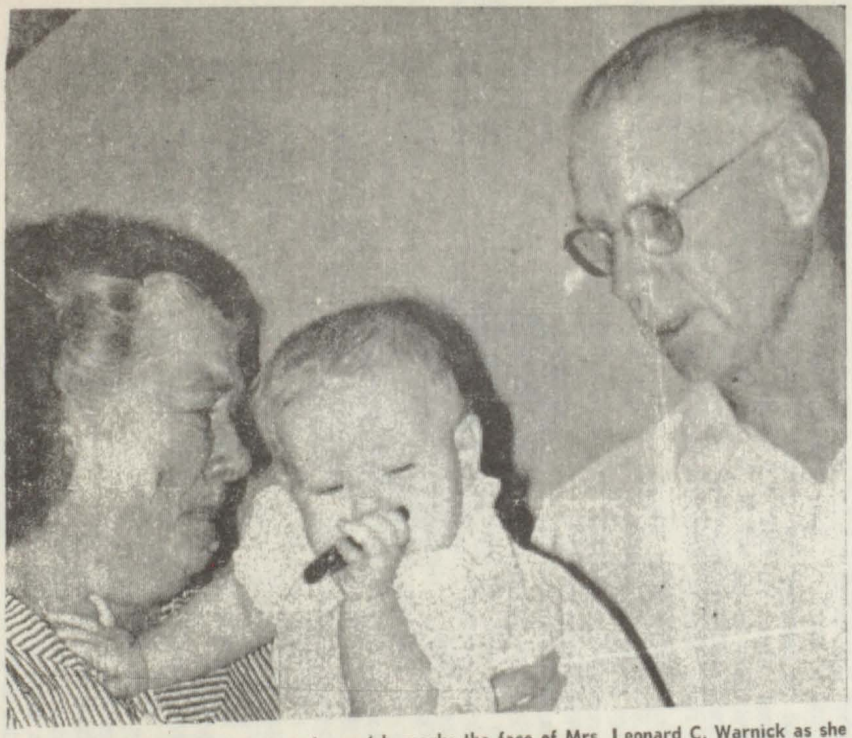
Just trust in God, though under sod, is placed your finest hope,
He loves you still, although his will has more than earthly scope.
Earth lends a home, while here we roam, not in abiding place,
This we must learn and give concern, to manifested grace.

Think not therefore that Clyde's no more, He only passed beyond
This mortal life and earthly strife, that sinks us in despond,
Sometimes we'll know as we are known, and then we'll understand
Why mortals born, with trials are torn, then moved to Spirit Land.

Why opened He, eyes for to see, words spoke that all could hear,
Expressing thought, a vision brought, to him his mother dear.
Since Mother's love and father's care, is met with everywhere,
From yonder shore, how much the more, may they our passing share.

We'll miss him and be lonely, his near ones be most sad,
Our thought of him sees only, his disposition glad,
So rest in peace thou dear one, until we one and all
Shall answer, "Master, here am I," to the resurrection call.

Five Stevens Sisters, Sen. & Mrs. Carl Curtis, & Sen. Elect Mrs. Haven Smith at Republican Rally in Polk Co.



A MOTHER'S SORROW — Renewed anguish marks the face of Mrs. Leonard C. Warnick as she clutches the only child of her son, Leonard, lost in the Vietnam War in June. Attempting to console her is her husband, a World War II veteran. (Telegram Photo)

Sept 4 1970

Medals awarded posthumously to family of Polk serviceman

By JANICE BOHATY

POLK — Happy chortles of a seven-month girl gave brief respite to the four adults so intently listening to a Navy Captain performing his grim task.

It was one of those ceremonies performed all too often these days — awarding posthumously medals of honor from the Vietnam war.

The scene was the Legion club; the family that of Engineman 3-c Leonard C. Warnick. It included his young blonde widow, parents, brother, Tony. In the audience were lose friends and relatives.

Young Warnick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Warnick Sr., graduated from Polk High School in 1967. He enlisted in 1968 and while at boot camp in the Great Lakes met Sandra Aker of Kenosha, Wis., the girl he chose for his wife.

He left for Vietnam in August, 1969. June 7, 1970, his family received the first dreaded message. He was missing in action, lost in a canal in the Vietnamese jungle after an encounter with North Vietnamese soldiers.

Two days later the young Naval officer from Lincoln appeared again, this time to tell the Warnicks the body of their husband and son had been found a short distance from the intial encounter. He apparently had been shot by a VC and fell off the river patrol boat.

Thursday afternoon memories flooded back to the Warnick family. As Capt. Herschel Pahl intoned the words of the many citations including, second purple heart, bronze star, Navy commendation medal and several ribbons and medals, the senior Warnick's eyes misted. Perhaps they were taken back to World War II when they met in war-torn England. How could London-born Hilda Warnick know her yet unborn son would one day give his life in another war.

To little Alicia Marie Warnick the shiny medals and bright ribbons were but another toy. How could she know they represent a father who never saw her.

Tornado Victims' Optimism, Courage Revelation To Touring Polk Neighbor

(The Lincoln Star's correspondent in the Polk vicinity, Mrs. Lloyd Hahn, was deeply moved after touring the scene of last week's tornado in the Benedict - Bradshaw - Shelby areas. Personally acquainted with many of the victims, Mrs. Hahn wrote the following account of her visits with these courageous persons.)

By MRS. LLOYD HAHN

I'm near it—the tornado area. Bradshaw and Benedict are to my southwest, Stromsburg and Shelby to my northeast . . . I took a 100-mile drive to see the area. I know many of the people personally and visited with them. They were pleased to know that others care, and appreciated the help given to them by their friends.

The optimism of those people impressed me. My stomach churned in sympathy as I saw "held back tears". I saw pathos, but I saw courage; there was hope and outward sunshine of spirit. Not one said what I'd been thinking, "Why did God let this happen? Why did this awful thing descend upon our community?"

Found Her Bible

One lady was hunting in the debris for her family Bible. She patted her friendly dog as she told me of her search. Her neighbor lady told me she was a devout Lutheran. "You could set your clock by the time the Lawrence Blums would be going by to York to church on Sunday," she said. I heard that evening that she found the Bible after men with loaders moved wreckage. It was not in very good condition, aged more in that one minute of tornado than in the 50 years of use.

A daughter-in-law from Lincoln was gathering up a few soiled clothes that looked impossible to rejuvenate even after laundering. I stooped and picked up a silk nightie. "Is THAT mine?" asked Mrs. Blum. Then she remembered. "Oh yes, that's the one I'd never worn. I'd put it away, ved for a trip. We always nted to go to Mexico." She gave the gown a little pat and shook her head.

In her basement were two bushel baskets of eggs, few of them broken. A few glass jars of home canned tomatoes sat on a nearby shelf, surrounded with dirt. On the lawn the freezer was split wide open exposing the unusable labeled packages of beats, peas, strawberries, once carefully put away by this lady, one of the hardest working gals of the neighborhood.

"Where were you when this happened?" I asked.

"We heard a terrible roar, it sounded like a jet. I said to Lawrence, 'Let's get in the car and drive away from it.' He replied that there wasn't time and said to get to the basement. We got there just in time. Even 30 seconds later would have been too late. I was hit on the head with bricks from the foundation; Lawrence bruised on the arm. Until I crawled out I didn't know our dog had come along and was sitting unhurt beneath me."

"Is your loss covered by insurance," I asked several friends. The reply was almost always the same, "Not nearly enough — maybe about 65% . . . And there are things like that shelterbelt that we planted years ago, We probably won't see it replaced in our lifetime . . . it takes years to grow."

Sad to see was the large trench being dug on the farm rented by the Lyle McCartneys. The trench, being hollowed out by a large bulldozer, was for the remains of the shattered house, trees, house furnishings of the couple who have four small children. The McCartneys are in their early twenties—just getting a start.

Lyle, coming home for supper that evening, saw his house lifted in the air and set down again. His concern was for his family. Mrs. McCartney was found in a corner of the room, caught and pinned, her children beneath her. Fortunately her injuries are minor. A large tree had blown under part of the house holding the roof from coming down on her.

At the Walter Klute farm were a host of relatives and friends who had come from near and far to help. There was an old fashioned bucket of water with its accompanying dipper to give workers a refresher.

"I was in service — had to sell out at a loss when I went," Mr. Klute said. "Now I've been back 17 years and we've worked and saved. It will take another 17 years to get back what I lost in the tornado. But I have some money saved, and I'm glad we are all together, nobody even hurt. So guess we're lucky."

Is there pilfering? I saw none. Friendly National Guardsmen directed the traffic . . . those who stop are friends, offering help and words of encouragement. Actually women aren't much help, as there is little they can do. Men with loaders are burning debris, neighbors with flat racks are picking up parts of buildings and the widely scattered irrigation pipe.

Friendly farmers who have their own spring planting to do have dropped everything to garner what is possible to save and to offer a helping hand.

After Long Squabble and Desecration

May 18-1965

Grave Marker Is Found Acceptable

By JACK BAILEY

POLK — The unmarked grave of Joseph John Bills, World War I veteran, in the Arborville cemetery southeast of Polk, is grim evidence of the fight which split the community wide open and which may take years to heal.

The grave was not always unmarked, but the marker the government furnished six years ago following Bills death, did not match the other gravestones in that part of the cemetery. That is what caused a fight that at one time reached a bitter high pitch.

After lying at the head of Bill's grave, under protest, for five years, it was torn down by unknown persons two days before Memorial Day a year ago and tossed behind a shed at one side of the cemetery.

The shock was almost too much for Mrs. Bills When she went to the cemetery to decorate the grave of her husband, she found the stone missing. She told friends she could hardly make her way home.

This Memorial Day the stone may be back in place again, if everything goes according to plan. After the six-year fight, and one year when the marker remained behind the shed, the members of the Cemetery association voted 15 to 6, one more than the two-third margin needed, to permit the stone to be erected again. But the stone will lie flat. The base on which it was mounted has been removed to make it more uniform with other stones in that part of the cemetery.

UNIFORM MARKERS?—A general view of the older section of the Arborville cemetery shows a lack of uniformity of the stones. (Photo by Jack Bailey)

When Lowell Bills, son of the dead man, was told of the association's action, he picked up the stone and took it to Central City where the base was removed. The tombstone maker agreed to reset it in the cemetery.

Hope This Ends Fight

"I hope this will end the fight and things can return to normal again." Mrs. Bill said. Several citizens of the community expressed the same hope and said it was a shame such a thing should happen in Polk.

One woman, who asked to remain unidentified, said: "Most of the people in town are ashamed and humiliated. It certainly showed a lack of respect for a man who served his country in time of war."

Mrs. Bills said the cemetery board complained when the marker was first taken to the grave six years ago. They pointed out the rules called for all stones to be four feet wide 16 inches high and six inches thick in this part of the cemetery. The government marker, which is uniform all over the country, did not meet these specifications. It was 24 inches wide, 12 inches high and only four inches thick and was made to lie flat on the ground.

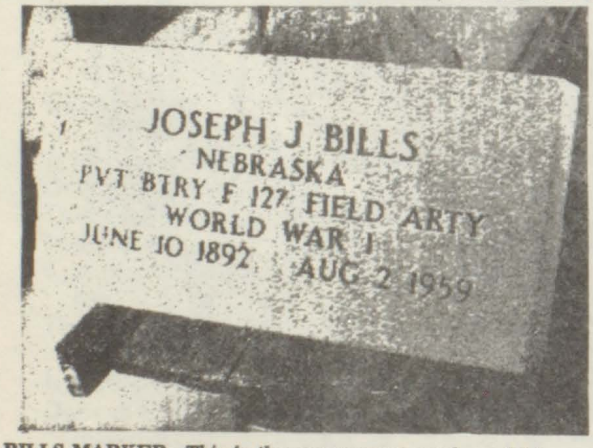
Tried to Compromise

When friends of Mrs. Bills and her son heard of the complaints they went out and mounted the marker on a base so it was the same height as the other stones. This did not appease the association, for it was only four inches thick instead of six inches.

"I argued and argued with the board but could get nowhere," Lowell said. "They were determined the stone must meet the specifications set down in the rules. At one time, they even offered to move the body to another section of the cemetery.

It seemed strange no one, not even the government, could do anything for a citizen who offered to give his life for his country in time of war.

Mrs. Bills and her son, as well as most of the citizens of Polk, are hopeful the marker will be in the cemetery on Memorial Day and for many Memorial Days to come.



BILLS MARKER—This is the government marker which was torn from its base in the Arborville cemetery and thrown behind a shed just before Memorial Day a year ago. It will be reset at the head of the grave in the near future. (Photo by Jack Bailey)

BARREN GRAVE — small metal mark

It seemed strange they should act this way for dad grew up in the Arborville community, left to serve his country and returned to spend the remaining years of his life within a few miles of the cemetery.

"Whenever a veteran was buried in the cemetery, the board always looked to dad to line up the firing squad which he always did. Yet when he died all this fuss was raised over the marker."

The Bills didn't get a different marker because of the principle of the thing. It wasn't that they couldn't afford one.

Father Picked Lot

But, Lowell said, his father picked the lot where he wanted to be buried and specified that a government stone mark his grave. He and his mother were only acceding to the elder Bills' wishes, Lowell said.

During the years of the squabble, Lowell has had meetings with the sheriff and county attorney of York County, where the cemetery is located. He said he also contacted the war department and the national veterans organization in Washington but all told him there was nothing they could do.

Physician Retiring After 54 Years of Service; Is Now 81

Dr. F. B. Slusser, Polk, Has Delivered More Than 1,400 Babies In 54 Years

Polk residents this week were paying homage to a member of the medical profession who has been both friend and physician to many families in the area.

The man is Dr. F. B. Slusser, 81 years old, who will place aside his pill case after some 54 years of administering to the ills of rural Nebraskans. During his years he has delivered some 1,400 babies including two sets of tripiets and seven pairs of twins.

Dr. Slusser began practicing in Wilcox, later moving to Minden then to Arborville. When Polk was in its incipiency he went there as its first doctor. A graduate of Rush Medical college, Chicago, he has served as assistant district surgeon for the Union Pacific railroad for twenty-three years.

A Salute to Our Departed Veterans

Each Memorial Day a flag is placed on these graves at near by cemeteries, where our veterans are peacefully sleeping.

Polk Cemetery

Civil War Veterans
- William Banghart
- Albert R. Benjamin
- John Bush
- James Green
- John N. Hurd
- Rev. John A. Larkin
- Henry Leffler
- William Lewis
- Jamier E. Stevens
- Alfred A. Peterson
- Joseph Pence
- Horace Putman
- Horace Willits

Spanish War Veterans
- Bert A. Darrow (Benjamin)
- Charles F. Talbot
- George H. Johnson
- Andrew Sundberg

World War I Veterans
- Oscar L. Gustafson
- F. Severt Gestrine
- August Nelson
- Clarence Rodine
- Bennie S. Peterson

Nurses
- Mrs. Nettie Hurd
- Mrs. Emma M. Waggoner

World War II Veterans
- Willard Branting
- Alvin M. Ehn
- Walter D. Gestrine
- Archie Stevens

Viet Nam Veterans
- Leonard (Lenney) Warnick, Jr.

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Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery

Ernest Kerker
Walter Hopp
Willard Richardson
Mamie Ziegleblein (nurse)

****

Okeasabt Gine

Pleasant Home Cemetery

Civil War Veteran
- Christopher J. Doremus
- Samuel Bowlby
- Justice J. Darrow

Swede Plain Cemetery

Civil War Veterans
- Charles Howard
- Ole P. Johnson
- Charles N. Norton

World War I Veterans
- Albert G. Johnson

World War II Veterans
- Ted Eckdahl
- Dean Ostberg

****

Laclede Cemetery

Edwin Drewell
Harold Lindburg
William H. Miller

****

Lindale Cemetery

William Ericson
John Richardson
Joseph Spires

****

Arborville Cemetery

Civil War Veterans
- Henry Kisler, Sr.
- Jacob S. Gray
- John W. Kingston
- Robert McGinnis
- Robert P. Meredith
- George Fisher
- David Eberle
- Homer Bowker
- John Leslie
- T.W. Latham
- Samuel B. Flick
- John I. Dorsey
- Alex Miller
- Rev. James M. Bay
- F. T. Latham
- Dr. L.P. Ensign
- Josiah Smith
- Phillip J. Ruch
- C.W. Dorsey
- S. McConnell
- Boyd Lend
- J.A. Fightmaster
- Leonard Johnson
- C.H. Young
- Delos Hastings
- Abner Wilcox

Nurse
- Mary E. Ruch

Spanish American Veteran
- Homer Ramsey

World War I Veterans
- Harry E. Gray
- Charles Newton
- Mary E. Wilcox, (nurse)
- Lemuel R. Wilcox
- Frank L. Wilcox
- D. Clarence Mills
- Lincoln Miller
- Harvey Hahn
- J.J. Bills
- Joyce Buckner
- Fred Shockey
- Earle Cockle
- Roy Mitchell
- Shannon Shafer
- Wilbur Whitacre

World War II
- Arnold L. Hayward
- Harold Davis
- William Eberle, Jr.
- Orville Eberle
- Ronald Piper
- Everett Cramer
- Lloyd Rolls
- Orville Peterson
- Stanley M. Peterson
- Henry Kisler
- Morris Marlin Smith

Viet Nam Veteran
- Richard L. Gordon

Polk's Military Service Roll

The Polk Military Service Roll has grown to large proportions since the Civil War. Our community has contributed their share of brave men who responded to the call of duty in the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I and II and in the Korean and Viet Nam Conflicts. Much honor is due these heroes.

The following is Polk's Service Roll List. Please note the veterans listed under burials in near by cemeteries are not listed here again. Complete records were unavailable. Our apologies for any errors.

(* denotes deceased)

Lawrence Ackerman
Robert Aldrich
Marland Adelson
La Vaughn Adelson
Bradley Albin
Ted Alfred
Duane Allison
Fredrick Allison
William Allison
*Andy Anderson
*Bryan Anderson
Dale Gene Anderson
Dennis Anderson
Eldon Anderson
*Elmer Anderson
Eugene Anderson
*Frank W. Anderson
Lawrence Anderson
Leland Anderson
Leonard Anderson
LeRoy Anderson
Norris Anderson
Lanny Ang
Sterling Ang
Robert Baack
Dan Baker
*Bert Bay
Arthur Bates
Earl Bates
Kenneth Bedient
Carl Bedient
Owen Bedient
Roy Bice
Leland Bills
Floyd Bittinger
Russell Bowers
Gerald Branting
Marvin Granting
Mervin Branting
Norman Branting
Glenn Brazda
Kenneth Brazda
Robert Brazda
Roger Brazda
Ernest Brockevelt
Robert Brockevelt
Ronald Brockevelt
Duane Burney
Ellsworth Carlson
Lisle "Bud" Carlson
Dennis Carlstrom
Steven Carlstrom
*Clarence Cash
Gerald Cline
Robert Cline
Robert Clymer
Gerald Cohagen
Larry Coover
Clark Cowles
Ivan Cramer
Richard Cramer
Robert Cramer
Wayne Creech
Vernon Crow
Raymond Dahlberg
Robert Dahlberg
Donald Dahlin
*Rolland Dahlin
*Frank Davis
Kenneth Davis
Henry Dittmer
Marvin Dittmer
Edwin Doremus
*Ralph Doremus
*Victor Doremus
Fredrick Dornburgh
Joe Ehn
Rudolph Ehn
Walter Ekdahl
Vern Eklund
James Felton
Morris Fisher
Paul Fisher
Wayne Fisher
Arthur Finstrom
*Verl Fitz
Burdette Flodman
Deland Flodman
Donald Forss
Irvin Forss
Gordon Fossberg
Gene Glasser
Daniel Graves
Gerald Giles
Ernest Gleim
Mac Gleim
Elmer Gnauden
Ross Goethe
*Claude Green
Everett Green
Regy Green
Irvin Gestrine
Doyle Gustafson
John Arthur Gustafson
Paul Gustafson
Richard Gustafson
Stephen Gustafson
Darwin Hahn
Delano Hahn
Dennis Hahn
Donald Hahn
Doyle Hahn
Dwayne Hahn
Lowell Hancock
Donald Hanquist
*Elmer Hanquist
Roger Hanquist
Stanley Hanquist
Gary Harless
Ralph Harrington
*Floyd Hedburg
Gene Heiden
Vern Hirsch
Charles Henderson
William Hoffman
John Holmes
Gaylen Holmes
Henry Horstman
Donald Hudson
*Arnold Isaacson
*Eugene Jensen
Rev. Harold Jensen
Charles Jisa
Leonard Jisa
Derald Johnson
*Donald Johnson
Duane Johnson
Edward Johnson
Gary Johnson
Gordon Johnson
Larry Johnson
Lyle Johnson
Milton Johnson
Rodney Johnson
Ronald Johnson
Victor Johnson, Jr.
Calmer Jones
Carl Jones
Larry Jones
Martin Jones
Max Jones
Noel Kealiher
Harry Kennel
Norman Keuper
Larry Killon
Alvin Kisler
Anita Kisler (nurse)
Eugene Klingsporn
James Klingsporn
Larry Klingsporn
Kenneth Klute
Carl A. Kingsted
Loren Kneeland
*Jacob Knerr
Gerald M. Kunkle
*Edward Larson
Leonard Larson
Morris Larson
Jack LaVelle
Jerry LaVelle
*Dr. J.R. Leibee
*Andrew Lind
Galyn Lind
Wallace Lind
*Delwyn Lindholm
Charles Lindburg
Lewis Lindburg
Maurice Lindburg, Jr.
*Virgil Lindburg
Bernard Litty
Kermit Lindgren
Raymond Lindgren
Charles Logston
Roger Long
Charles Lytle
Robert Lytle
Glenn Madison
*George McClure
*Rev. R.S. McCutcheon
Waldon McNaught
William McGaffin
Dean McGinnis
Philip Meline
Reuben Meline
Roger Merchant
Don Miller
Dwayne Miller
Dennis Mills
James Mills
Elmer Mitchell
Roy Mitchell
Donald Morris
Lee Morris
Lloyd Morris
Roger Morris
William Munn
Clarence Myers
Dean Myers
Dwight Myers
Eugene Myers
Jack Myers
Robert Myers
Elmer Neeman
Walter Neilsen
Dale Nelson
Dean Nelson
*Hazel Nelson (nurse)
William Nelson
Allan Neuhaus
Arnold Neuhaus
Darwin Neuhaus
Donald Nyberg
Dale Nyberg
Duane Nyberg
Henry Nyberg, Rev.
Leonard Nyberg
Merlin Nyberg
Philip Nyberg
Ronald Nyberg
Cecil Newton, Jr.
Darwin Newton
Duane Newton
Fredrick Otte
Donald Ostberg
Frank Ostrander
Richard Owens
Rev. E.E. Pengelley
Donald Person
Cenith (McCoy) Penrose (nurse)
Dr. Arthur Peterson
Burdette Peterson
Dr. C.R. Peterson
Dale Peterson
Donald Peterson
Rev. Elmer R. Peterson

Enoch Peterson
Max Peterson
Raymond Peterson, Jr.
Robert Peterson
*William G. Peterson
Glenn Pickerel
Walter L. Piper
Robert Rahrs
Donald Rasmussen
Edward Recknor
Norman Recknor
W.A. Refshauge
Clarence Rhode
Edgar Rhode
*John Richardson
Fred Richey
Marshall Riley
Ansel Rodine
Lowry Rodine
John Rosno
Mervin Runquist
Randall Runquist
Carl Salchow
Hilmer Samuelson
Bradley Samuelson
Kent Sandell
LaVar Sandell
Neal Sandell
Edward Saylor
James Schneider
Harry E. Schneider
Roy C. Schneider
Farnum Schrader
Maynard Schrader
Ervin Schultz
Sydney Scott
George Scott
Harry Shafer
Danny Shaw
Jay Shaw
Charles Shenk
Donald Shostrom
Dorrell Shostrom
Donald Skinner
Fred Smith
*Hilton Steelquist
*Carl Steelquist
*Robert Steenbock
Duane Sterner
Wilfred Stephens
Douglas Stevens
Gary Stevens
Gerald Stevens
Raymond Stevens
Robert Stevens
Everett Stouffer
Robert Strickland
Arlan Stromberg
Gary Stromberg
Gayle Stromberg
Leon Stromberg
Leonard Stromberg
Marvin Stromberg
Robert Stromberg
Rolland Stromberg
William Stromberg
Leon Stunkle
*Andrew Sundberg
Bradley Sundberg
Doyle Sundberg
Harvey Sundberg
James Sundberg
Lynn Sundberg
Oscar E. Sundberg
Duane Swanson
Wayne Swanson
Floyd Taylor
Darwin Thelander
Allen Tonniges
Daniel Tyler
Joe Tyler
Donald Upton
Kenneth Upton
Lester Upton
Clarence Van Ostrand
Leonard Warnick, Sr.
Lowell Warnick
Kenneth Werner
Roger Werth
Charles Widga
Dennis Widga
Donald Widga
Donavin Widga
Leland Widga
Lester Widga
Lyle Widga
Howard Wilcox, Jr.
Dwain Williams
*Dr. J.B. Williams
LaVonne Williams (nurse)
Kenneth Willits
Kenneth Wilshusen
Donald Wischemier
John Witte
Merlin Wright
Dr. Arthur Wurtz
Charles Ziegelbein

Tragic Deaths of Our Community

God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our life through,
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

Tragedy has struck our community many times and our sympahy goes out to loved ones. No community is ever exempt from accidents and sad happenings.

Let Us Remember These:

--Wallace Stromberg, drowned in sandpit near Hordville.
--Gilbert Benson and son, Ronald and Arnold Isaacson killed in airplane crash in 1949.
--Dean Ostberg, killed in tractor accident.
--Glenn Dobberstein killed in hay stacker accident.
--Mrs. John Johnson died in 1910 - accidentally gassed in Omaha hotel when she forgot and blew out a gas light.
--Kenneth Meerkatz fatally injured in train accident in 1973.
--Paul Ehn struck by lightening while working in a field north of Polk.
--Neil Rakestraw electrocuted while working on a telephone line in Polk.
--Jesse McNeely drowned in a sand pit near Silver Creek age 23 (1934).
--Willard Branting perished in a blizzard snowstorm.
--The following were injured fatally in car accidents - Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thesing, Charles Harless, Martin Lind, Kenneth Strand, Judy Adelson, Elaine Stevens, Berniece Miller, Robert Janky, Donna and Dwight Doremus, Margaret Gordon, Mrs. Rodney Allison, Alvin Anderson, Neva Peterson, Ray McGinnis.
--Larry Larson, age 19, died in February 1973 when his car went into a ditch near Clarks.
--Bryan Graves and Leonard Larson were killed in truck accidents.
--Joan Schultze was killed in a farm accident.
--Richard Wilshuson was run over by a tractor at Immanuel Lutheran Church.
--At age 2, Joe Jisa, a twin, drowned in a stock tank on the family farm near Polk.
--Arnold Beckman killed while overseeing a dynamiting job.

POTPOURRI "Early Daze"

CHAUTAUQUA

Webster's dictionary gives the definition of Chautauqua as "a popular system of educational extension by means of summer schools, programs of lectures, concerts, drama, etc. - modeled after that instituted in 1874 at Chautauqua Lake, New York". Regardless of the meaning, Chautauquas were an annual and "looked - forward to" event in summertime at Polk in about the years 1910 to 1925. They afforded high class entertainment and brought many cultural features to our community. Redpath-Horner was the usual company that frequented Polk, maybe because a local man, John Nathan Norton was a lecturer with them. Season tickets were sold beforehand and the sessions lasted a week to 10 days.

The huge Chautauqua tent would be located on what is now Lilac Lawn, or the old Stevens Livery Barn lots or on the school yard grounds. The travelogues were good and muscial events were superb. Such plays as "East Lynn" and "Path Across the Hills" brings back memories. Performances were held in the afternoon and evenings. In the morning would be a children's performance, very instructive and educational. Many times there was a Bible speaker with Biblical illustrations.

Traveling shows and small circuses were always big events, especially to the Polk youngsters. The circus was mainly a dog show with maybe one elephant or other wild animals. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was a tent show that made regular tours to Polk.

Some of Polks early residents remember with nostalgia attending Chautauqua, of how they worked and saved their money to attend the annual event.

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POLK'S RURAL MAIL CARRIERS

In 1872 mail was brought out to the Pleasant Home Precinct post office to the S.C. Davis home about 5 miles east of Polk. Mr. Davis was postmaster. Mail was also brought to the LaClede locality which was a postal distribution point located in the Gust Lindburg home 2 miles north of Polk. Families would call for their mail at these places or a kind neighbor would bring it. No one had a daily paper and once in a while a copy of "The Omaha Bee" or "Chicago News" would be sent along with the mail which would be heartily received and passed along. There were very few magazines and no one had much money to send mail.

A U.S. Post office, called Thorton was maintained in the Horace Willits home from 1891 to 1895. Charles De Schoe, the mail carrier, made a round trip daily by team or buggy from Stromsburg to Clarks, stopping enroute at Thorton. Mr. De Schoe was a cripple and walked with crutches. Congress discontinued this post office in 1895. Stromsburg to the Polk area was served by S.J. Harless, William Oakes, and later Ray Underhill.

William A. Stevens was the first appointed mail carrier from Polk serving till 1910, on Route 2. Amos Shafer was transferred from the Arborville mail route and served as carrier on Route 1. The salary at that time was around $35 to $90 a month, varying on mileage and weather. If the weather was bad or a horse played out and couldn't make the trip they received pay for only as far as they went. If they couldn't start out they received no pay. Routes were then about 28 miles in length and Polk had the 2 carriers. The routes were combined in 1935 and Clyde Stevens was the first carrier on the longer route. Charles Eckles was transferred to Gresham, Nebraska. On January 1, 1936, portions of the rural Bradshaw route were added to the Polk route.

It is interesting to learn how the early carriers sorted their mail. A small four legged stool was turned over and mail laid in according to homes - one person's mail put in and the next mail laid crosswise, etc. It would take several such stools for all the route's mail.

The mail man drove a horse or team hitched to a narrow lightweight buggy with a square top. The letters R.F.D. painted in large size and standing for Rural Free Delivery were painted on either side. Robert and Gerald Stevens have one of these old buggies. The carrier took his dinner along and feed for his horses and would stop at farm homes to water the team. It was a difficult job in the winter time when roads were drifted.

Other carriers on Route 2 were Ed Stevens and Clyde A. Stevens, till his death in 1935. Others on Route 1, besides Amos Shafer, were Ernest Dorsey, J.S.C. "Bud" Green and Charles Eckles. Since 1935, the carriers on the combined route were Chester Underhill and Gerald A. Stevens, the present mailman. Substitute carriers were Ed Stevens and Clyde Stevens before they were regular carriers, Joseph C. McClure, Archie Stevens, Dewey Sigler, Paul Stevens, Donald Hanquist, Bud Bolton, and Harvey Sundberg.

It is interesting to note that three generations of the William Stevens family have been mail carriers. William A. Stevens, his son Clyde, and Clyde's son, Gerald.

POLK"S ANNUAL CORN SHOW

Early Polk had Corn Shows. They were held in a building on west Main Street, that was termed "The Garage". The community and neighboring towns were asked to bring specimens of their best corn ears and large prizes given. Polk community and other towns were in two different classes. The 1910 paper tells of a huge Corn Show held on January 24th and 25th and lists prizes won. Polk merchants contributed over $150 in cash besides merchandise gifts. There were prizes for the best wheat, corn and oats.

The ladies were not forgotten and entries in bread, cakes, rolls and pastries were made. A quilt display was held in one end of the building, with prizes given.

The event was sponsored that year under auspices of the University of Nebraska and the Farmers' Institute. Charles H. Lindburg was president of the Corn Show and Joseph E. McDaniels was secretary.

For the best ten ears of corn that year, Adam Deuker, A.C. Jones and R.S. Glasser won prizes.

The elevators closed and farmers all came to town. Merchants had very special bargains for those days. Curtis and Ramage advertised to make their store headquarters for the corn show - to leave your blankets, bundles, robes, horse whips at their store while you attended the show. The ad said cranberries would be 7½¢ a quart and calico was 10 yds. for 45¢ = percale 10 yds. for 55¢. A special was on men's suits for $11.00.

Victor Anderson Co. also had specials in furniture - kitchen cabinets for $5.00 during Corn Show.

It was a huge success, so paper of January 24, 1910 stated.

TRAMPS

Tramps or traveling hoboes were common in days past. They would travel on top of freight cars and then get off when the train stopped at towns. As our home was only 3/4 of a mile from the railroad I can remember many tramps stopping. My father, William Stevens always told mother to give them something to eat on the porch, but to never let them inside.

On this particular late afternoon a most unkempt, ragged and surly character had stopped. He was carrying a coat which was held in a suspicious manner. He insisted on coming into the house and mother kept urging him to sit on the porch. (She had told us children to go into the house.) Fortunately my father happened to come home just then. He ordered the man to put the coat down and to sit on the steps. The tramp leaned the coat up against the house and they saw it was wrapped around a gun.

After eating his lunch which mother brought, the man grabbed his gun and coat and hurriedly left. My father warned him that this was a law abiding country and to be careful how he used that gun.

Another time a tramp came stumbling up to the door. He used a tree limb for a cane and it was obvious he was partly blind. It was just after breakfast and my mother fixed him cereal and bacon and eggs, setting up a table on the porch. We had some baby chickens in a box out there and he stumbled over them. The hungry man ate his meal and I remember how profusely he thanked mother when she gave him some money.

He picked his way carefully to the corner. When he thought he was out of sight he discarded his stick, straightened his shoulders and walked away as spryly as anyone.

SODDIES

Many of Polk youth do not know what a sod house looked like, or how it was constructed. Enoch Peterson and Arnon Dover lived in one in their early childhood.

Here is a description of soddies by one who once lived in one:

> When the early pioneers reached their destinations on the prairie, their covered wagons usually served as their homes until the men of the families could build some other type of shelter.
>
> This shelter usually took the form of a dugout. The Soddy was a room dug inside of a hill or ravine with a few rails or posts used as doors and window frames.
>
> The front wall was of cut turf or logs. The sloping roof, that went into the hill, was made of poles or logs covered with brush thick enough to hold dirt. This roof did not prove efficient however, since water dripped and even cause some families to leave their makeshift homes.
>
> The soddies were usually nine feet by twelve feet in size. With six in most families, the soddies were fairly crowded. A soddy (for six people) had a bed, stove, table and boxes for chairs. The children slept on table and the rest on the floor.
>
> The cost of a dugout in 1872 was $2.87½. Window: $1.25; 18 ft. of lumber for door .54;

latch .50; Pipe for roof vent .30; 3 lbs. of nails 19½ cents.

Finally the men started to build soddies with sod bricks and made them 16 by 20 in size. The sod bricks were made by turning 12 inch furrows in the thickest sod ground. The sod bricks were laid crosswise to make a 2 ft. thick wall. Cedar logs made the rafters for the roof which was made out of willow brush.

These sod houses were more spacious, comfortable than the old dugout, never-the-less the roofs still leaked after every rain storm.

The interior walls were plastered with clay and whitewashed or papered with newspapers. Papered walls were a sign of prosperity.

There were few windows in the soddies, therefore, darkness made the families retire early because they could not afford to burn candles or lamps. --A far cry from today's Modern Living???

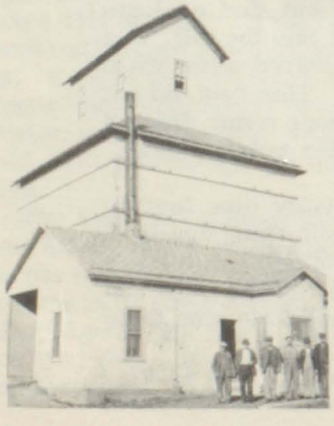
DURANT ELEVATOR - East of Polk

Another elevator, doing business in this locality is at Durant, six miles east of Polk. It was built in 1907 and was owned by S.J. Bell of David City. A small store with staple supplies was maintained here also. This elevator helped farmers to dispose of their grain without having to haul it so far by team and wagon.

In 1915 Mr. Bell sold the elevator and small acreage for $7500 to a group of local farmers who had organized the Farmers' Grain Co. of Durant. The first board of Directors were: John H. Anderson, Gust Chindgren, Henry R. Lind, Fred Fredrickson, and A.C. Carlson. John Greenwall was the first manager at a salary of $100 a month. Livestock and farm produce as well as grain were shipped out. In 1919, O.W. Mapps became manager, followed by A.E. Pearson and Al Thorstensen. In 1954 Elmer Richters purchased the elevator and built additional storage and grain bins. From the original capacity of 40,000 bushels it expanded to a storage capacity of approximately 732,000 bushels.

John H. Anderson was president of the Board of Directors for over 30 years and Gust Chindgren and E.J. Anderson served long terms as secretaries.

The Durant elevator was sold in 1971 to John and Marc L. Armoreaux of Waterville, Kansas and Ralph Gerdes became the manager. This elevator handles over a million bushels of grain annually.



Durant in 1928 with Board of Directors. From left to right, John H. Anderson, Pres., William E. Johnson, Nels Hughes, A.E. Pearson, the manager, E. J. Anderson, Sec., and Henry Lind.

Do You Remember These Good Ole Days

If you do, you are as old as Polk or Older.

Being raised on country sunshine, milking cows in a manure and sweat smelling barn, drinking milk, warm and unpasteurized.

Ice from S.F. Myer's pond for those special home-made ice cream days, ice in the ice box, put in the lemonade.

Lowering butter into the well or to the cave to keep it firm.

Picking up "pig pen cobs" and being surprised that they didn't smell too bad when they were burned in the kitchen stove. Sometimes the kids all pitched in and picked up a whole wagon load.

Having a mouse run up your sleeve when getting cobs to put in that old cook stove.

Your mother making cottage cheese on the back of the old cook stove in the kitchen. It took several days.

Filling the stove reservoir, so there would be warm water for the Saturday night bath around the base burner?

That bath by the old base burner, toasty on one side, chilly on the other. "Hurry up, it's my turn."

Watching the coal embers dance in the base burner and once in a while picking out a piece of isinglass so you could see better.

Being rubbed with turpentine and lard for that cold in the chest.

Eating corn bread, plenty of beans, navy beans, lima beans, pinto beans, all raised in the garden. Also prunes being one of the few fruits available, along with apples, for dessert.

Helping butcher - maybe four of five hogs at a time,

rendering out the lard in the big black kettles outside, or if a small "batch", on the kitchen stove. How it did smell if some popped out on the stove. There was grinding sausage, frying and putting it down in lard to keep, salting those hams and bacons with salt petre solution.

The old smoke house, almost looked like the outhouse, where dad "smoked" for days and you thought in a daze sometimes with the smoke going hither and yon.

Seeing dad put the hams and shoulders in oats to keep for the summer eating. Later part of one could become a bit rancid or moldy on one side.

Getting 5¢ allowance when mother came to town on Friday after school and spending it in three different grocery stores, picking out penny candy. Girls liked the peppermint stick quite well as they came with a cheap ring encircling the penny treat.

Grandma doling out sugar lumps from the pockets of her long gathered dress to the young ones in the family.

Taking a brick, heated in the oven, wrapped in newspapers and a towel to bed with you to keep your feet warm. Also warming oats and putting it in a small salt sack.

The first Model T - "such a beat", but we jacked it up in real cold weather. It took 4 hours to go 40 miles on a frozen dirt road, with your feet freezing and the wind and snow blowing through the cracked isinglass windows, but wasn't it "swanky."

A phonograph, if you had one, that you wound up, changed needles often and it played "Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes" or "Believe me if all the Endearing Young Charms," for about three minutes.

Maybe you won the musical instrument, selling packages of seeds to the neighbors. Those 10 cent packages of seeds were probably from Henry Field of Shenandoah, Iowa.

The women wouldn't be caught "out", without their tight corsets, hooks in the front, lacings in the back.

That walk on the well worn path to the cold little hut in the back yard, with a Sears Roebuck or Monkey Ward catalogue. Ah yes, and those "thunderbowls" under the bed which saved nocturnal visits.

When dad said, "Lets invite the Jones home for dinner", and mother thought, "I don't really know what we are going to have, but it is OK.

Those kerosene lamps, that always needed trimming, and the globes washing.

Those long black stockings we wore to school, and that long underwear. When we were out of sight of mom, we rolled them up.

Those unbleached muslin bloomers, itchy, but serviceable.

Cutting corn off the cob (field or sweet) and drying them on old white sheets in a sunny spot, turning and mixing and using branches of trees to switch the flies away.

Those a.m.'s when all the family often joined in with towels or small tree branches to drive the flies out of the house. One person was door keeper and "opened and shut it when they had a drove" at the door.

Chasing the flies out of the house with a branch off the nearest tree, or grandma's apron, or a towel.

During threshing time, one child would be delegated to keep brushing, so flies wouldn't land in the food.

Yep, we're all lucky we lived through those good old "daze," and most of us are quite hale and hearty.

Mrs. Effie Shalberg of Oakland, California, who once lived north of Polk (was daughter of Oscar Branting) was working in Veteran's Administration in New York at about 1944.

"One day a disabled veteran came to my desk, by the name of Branting. I drew the file--it was a second cousin, William Branting. I had never seen him before."

Polk County Women Plan Five-Day Visit in Ozarks

The World-Herald's News Service.

Polk, Neb.—Polk County Farm Bureau women have scheduled a busy five-day trip to the Ozarks starting October 22. They plan to visit:

—The Eisenhower Museum at Abilene, Kans.

—The Truman Library and Museum at Independence, Mo.

—The Wren House, abode at Springfield, Mo., of Guy Williams, former "Rolling Along" columnist of The Omaha World-Herald's Magazine of the Midlands.

The group also will tour the "Shepherd of the Hills" country at Branson, Mo.

Mrs. Lloyd Hahn is tour director. Also on the committee are Mrs. Walter Berck, Osceola, whose husband is president of the county bureau, and Mrs. Ben Peterson of Polk, chairman of the Associated Farm Bureau Women.

How We Met a Man Who Became President

It's fun to remember! The year was 1960. A group of Farm Bureau ladies were enjoying a trip to the Ozarks.

At Independence, Mo., they stopped to tour the Truman Museum. Mrs. Burney (then Mrs. Hahn) was wearing a Republican large button. As she was leaving she was asked if she'd care to donate it to the museum. She thought they were "kidding" as they had also told her Senator Kennedy was "speechmaking" in Kansas City. But they showed her their collection of political badges, so she left it and later received a nice thank you from the museum.

But because Jack Kennedy was in Kansas City, it meant that his secretary Evelyn Lincoln was there also. Evelyn's aunt, Mrs. Nettie Carlson, was in the group, as was Evelyn's Polk High School classmate Mildred Stevens Anderson. Mrs. Burney began a round of calls, located Evelyn, and said that Mrs. Walter Berck, Nells Peterson, Hazel Johnson, Mildred Anderson, and she would like to meet the aspiring president, adding, "He's going to win."

Evelyn gave Grayce his schedule. The only way the tour group schedule and Jack's would fit in was to go at midnight to a certain airport gate, say Evelyn sent us, and wait. I wanted to take the bus load, but Evelyn said no.

To get a taxi was the next problem. It was over 20 miles. Haggling with taxi drivers finally got the ride over for $20.

They met Evelyn, they toured the airplane Caroline, shook hands and chatted with Mr. Kennedy. They took the taxi driver along. He was thrilled also to be included.

It came time to go home. The taxi driver said, "The $20 was for the ride over--it costs another $20 to ride back." The "gals" hadn't figured on this and were stranded without cash. (They had thought $20 was round trip.

Suddenly the driver, seeing their predicament and forlorn faces said, "Don't tell anybody, but I have to go back anyway, so I'll give you a free ride. I enjoyed it also."

Thus ended an early morning experience for six tired, but happy Polk ladies.

Grayce and Mildred

(This tour was one of three five day "fun and education" out of state trips planned by Mrs. Ben Peterson and Mrs. Dwight Burney to Shenandoah and Pella, Iowa and the Black Hills. Members were Ruth Aker, Hazel Johnson, Emma Horstman, Sadie Clark, Lillie Chindgren, Sylvia Sandell, Violet Sundberg, and others.)

SADIE CLARK

MARILYN HAHN PIERPONT

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The day they sold the home place

By BARTELL NYBERG

Grandpa decreed that these 200 acres of flatland must be sold, but it's a sad day when a vital chunk of one's life is auctioned.

GOING home for the last time. Going home to that lone link to the days when times were rough but life was easier. Going home, not to my house in suburbia but my boyhood farm in southeastern Nebraska, not far from the village of Polk. Will home ever be a house in suburbia, where one doesn't stay put long enough for roots to grow deep?

I suppose there isn't a square inch of soil in the entire 200 acres of home that I haven't tramped on or ridden over. Not many years ago I knew where all the badger holes were, and which ones were occupied and which ones for rent.

A home like this is a refuge, held forevermore in reserve in the unhappy event all else fails, and through the years my mind has cherished memories of my boyhood years in this place.

But now I'm making a sad pilgrimage to see my home sold.

Grandpa's will specified that the farm had to be sold within two years after Grandma's death. Since 1954, when Grandpa died, my uncle John operated the farm. It's been almost two years since Grandma died, so now there is no choice but to sell.

No doubt Grandpa wanted the land sold at auction in fairness to all his 11 children, so that the money could be divided equally with no one being favored.

None of his children have the money to pay what the farm undoubtedly will bring in open bidding. Some now live in cities and are uninterested in operating a farm. Most would like to see John buy the farm at whatever price he could afford. That way, "home" would be kept in the family as a place where the city grandchildren could roam when their parents return for vacation visits, a place where all might gather for the Christmas Eve oyster stew, so long a family tradition.

But some are more eager for their share of the money than such sentimental journeys, so the will must be followed.

The farmhouse was a grand structure in its day, although its day maybe was a decade or two before mine. Magnificent light oak woodwork abounds—in the library with its built-in bookcases filled with the Bobbsey Twins, Zane Grey, Horatio Alger Jr. and Dorothy [illegible] in the dining room with its [illegible] built-in buffet; in the parlor with its pillars and in the reception hall into which I used to slide on the front stairway's oak bannister.

Upstairs, there are four bedrooms. Most of my uncles and aunts were gone by the time I moved into the house. I was lucky to sleep in the south bedroom, which was about as warm as the kitchen. Some frigid mornings the kitchen thermometer shrank to 40 degrees or so before somebody shook out the clinkers and built a fire in the furnace in the basement. For having such a voracious appetite for coal or wood, that furnace did a miserable job of heating.

Three of the four outside entrances are sheltered by porches, perfect for kids on rainy days. The kitchen has *nine* doors, not counting the door enclosing the built-in ironing board. Beside the ironing board was an electrical outlet—for years the only one in the house other than some added to light fixtures—an outlet into which I once thrust my finger, with startling results, when the cover was off.

Outside, just across the driveway, is the engine house, so named because it housed the well and gasoline engine powering the water system. The price of gasoline made the pump an unaffordable luxury in the poverty of the '30s. It was a quarter-century before the water system again was used.

Some of the outbuildings are gone, and others are slowly going, including the venerable barn, a huge old structure whose chief virtue was the haymow housing my basketball court. There are no hens in the chicken house now, only milo or corn, and the brooder house is a play house for Uncle John's two grade-school-age children.

Cedar Lawn Farm it was once called, though the dozens of cedars look a little straggly now, and it encompasses 200 acres of rich Nebraska black loam. One hundred sixty acres are on the east side of the county road, in Section 11 where the house is, and the other 40 is on the west side in Section 10.

On July 1, 1862, the U.S. Government granted Section 10 to the Union Pacific Railroad, part of the every-other-section grant in return for building the railroad. Thirteen years later the government issued UP a patent. The 160 acres in Section 11 were homesteaded April 5, 1877, by Edward Cooper. Hugo Flodman and his wife Lovisa acquired the 200 acres of what is

now the farm in several transactions between 1887 and 1916.

The '20s brought prosperity and on Feb. 29, 1928, Grandpa, then a young farmer, paid Flodman $190 per acre ($38,000) for the 200 acres. Walter J. Nyberg moved his family, which then included seven children, 1¼ miles from their rented farm to the new home, just a quarter-mile south of the Swede Plain Methodist Church.

But the '30s were as bad as the '20s were good. Wall Street tumbled in 1929, and the Depression coincided with the Dust Bowl era. The wind blew eternally, and dirt drifted like snow. In 1934, maybe the dryest of the drought years, Grandpa refinanced the farm, obtaining a 40-year Federal Land Bank loan to pay off the original mortgage.

Somehow, the Nybergs kept the farm, and with the meager bounty of the land they fed the kids. True, many days they ate nothing but mush—corn-meal mush for breakfast, rye-meal mush for dinner, wheat-meal mush for supper. If the six girls soiled their dresses at school, they washed them out that evening so they would be ready to wear by morning. They had only one dress each, usually made from flour sacks.

Those were the days when the Nybergs quit using the power water system, but there were plenty of kids to tote buckets of water the 75 yards from windmill to house.

The early '30s were pre-REA (Rural Electrification Administration) days too, but the Nyberg home had its own gasoline-powered electric generator. Gradually they cut back on the use of electricity until finally it was used only to run the washing machine.

Now, walking east along the dusty lane, I see the towering cottonwoods—the ones we called the "east tree line"—are gone. So is the willow by the bridge and the mulberry tree halfway to the mailbox, which was on the corner beside the little country church. I wonder where the pheasants and rabbits and quail find wintertime refuge. I wonder how long it will take to spawn another Dust Bowl should drought deplete ground-water irrigation reserves. These trees, bulldozed out by someone, had been planted to prevent recurrence of the wind-blown '30s.

Across the section, just over a half-mile away, the white District 44 schoolhouse is gone. The schoolyard now is a corn field. District 44, sometimes called Sunny Plain school, was heavy on the three Rs, skimpy on the frills. Many raw winter days I trudged home hoping for a ride from a passing neighbor before reaching the cut-across point at the half-mile line. Twenty years ago there were plum bushes at the half-mile line, right beside the road, their fruit handy for on-the-way-

In the courthouse lobby, Cousin Phil (seated, right) explains a bid to Uncle John. The Flodman brothers (light shirts, rear) wait their turn.

Playing in the wheat bin was risky business

HOME PLACE *continued*

home snacks each fall. The plums were victims of the road graders years ago.

Grandpa, a bear for work until slowed by heart problems, seemed to have a knack for making things difficult. Always, the grain was stored in the bin farthest from the feeding site, or the hogs were penned a backbreaking distance from the windmill that pumped the water.

Seldom was there more than a puddle of water in the creek winding through the pasture. But each May or June there is a gully-washer, usually an overnight downpour of three to five inches of rain, that transforms the trickle into a muddy torrent maybe 200 yards wide in places.

"The creek's running," somebody would holler. Down to the bridge we would go, entranced by sight of the soil-laden water lapping at the roadbed, floating cornstalks downstream toward the junction with Prairie Creek on Swede Lind's farm.

Tramping back from the east end of the farm, I see that Swede Plain Church now has light green shingles matching those Uncle John and I nailed to our roof a few years ago. A half-mile beyond the church is the cedar-ringed Swede Plain Cemetery, where the Nybergs and Linds and a lot of other relatives are buried.

I wander back through the outbuildings, past the garden plot where invariably at the hottest time of the hottest day of early summer I would have to pick potato bugs.

My favorite corn crib, the west one, torn down a few years back, is marked only by weeds now. That's the crib that had storage for corn on one side and wheat, oats and barley bins on the other.

Wheat, not nearly so scratchy, was the best to play in, and it was the source of a tasty gum. But since our wheat usually was "sealed"—sold to the U.S. Department of Agriculture with on-the-farm storage until the government wanted it—I had to play in it stealthily. On the outside of the bin was a sternly-worded warning that anyone "tampering with or removing the contents of this structure is contrary to law and subject to fine or imprisonment." The G-men never caught me.

It's almost time to drive to the Polk County Courthouse at Osceola now, and Matt, John's seven-year-old son, carries two silver dollars and some change to the kitchen.

"Here, Dad," Matt says.

"What's that?" John asks.

"Money."

"Am I supposed to take that to the sale?"

"Yes," Matt replies. "Do you think it will be enough?"

"I don't know, Matt," John answers, "but it will sure help."

Other than relatives, there are only a handful of spectators, mostly neighbors, in the first-floor lobby of the courthouse when attorney Philip Nyberg, a cousin, opens the sale at exactly 2 p.m. ("This land is being sold under the terms of the will of Walter J. Nyberg . . .").

At 2:02 p.m. John bids $50,000.

The auction is quiet and terribly boring

Though sale time is near, Uncle John and son Matt find time to dig up potatoes in the garden.

HOME PLACE *continued*

The lobby is quiet, and we look around for the city land-buyers who must be there somewhere, ready to snap up another "family farm" for their corporate investment portfolio.

John is deadly serious about trying to get the farm and it's a shame because his disappointment will only be greater when the heavy bidding starts.

I've never attended a land auction before, and I guess I expected an auctioneer and open bidding like at the cattle sales I'd attended two decades ago with Grandpa.

Instead, this is quiet, solemn and terribly boring. The herd of Nyberg children, clustered with their mothers along the north wall of the lobby, gets restless. Their fathers, seated along the south wall, pay scant attention.

Cousin Phil, nattily dressed in contrast to the rest of us, totes clipboard and yellow legal tablet around the room, and the adjoining anteroom where most of the non-relatives congregate, as he solicits bids.

The minutes tick away, and there are no bids. Could it be that Uncle John will get the farm?

But $50,000! I stop and think how much money that is, and I can't imagine that John will ever be able to pay it. Terms of the sale, Phil says, are 15 per cent down today and the balance by next March 1. I wonder if John really has the 15 per cent down, but I guess he does or he wouldn't be bidding.

Con'd on page 165

But can he be so confident? He's already told me that regular commercial loan sources are out of the question because of high interest rates and sizable down payments. That leaves the Farmers Home Administration, but their loan limit is $60,000—and they won't even consider an application until a fellow has a firm option to buy.

Yet, even $60,000 would be only $300 per acre, and land like this has been selling anywhere from $375 to $525 per acre. Surely somebody will start bidding.

What is John thinking? He's mortgaging his entire future, and I wonder if he's not doing it partly to preserve something of the past for the rest of us as well as for himself and his own family.

At 2:27 p.m., Phil, as puzzled by the dearth of bids as anybody, is about to close the sale. Suddenly, from the anteroom, there is a bid. Wayland and Burdette Flodman, probably descendants of Hugo, bid $52,000.

Phil huddles with John, in the lobby, then the Flodman brothers in the anteroom. In between times, the lawyer circles the room vainly searching for other bidders.

John bids $57,000, the Flodmans $58,000. John says $60,000, and it's quiet again.

At 2:55 p.m. Phil steps to the center of the lobby, between two white pillars stretching from the miniature hexagonal floor tiles to the 12-foot-high ceiling.

"We're bid $60,000 by John Nyberg," the lawyer announces. "Are there any more bids?" Turning toward the anteroom, he asks: "Are there any more bids out there? Are there any more bids?"

Silence.

"Sixty thousand dollars once. Sixty thousand dollars twice. Sixty thousand dollars three times. Sold to John Nyberg for sixty thousand dollars."

A grin envelopes John's face, and he slumps back in his chair. Spectators turn and file out the south door. Relatives soon follow. It's over.

Heading for Colorado, I drive west on U.S. 30A to the corner where Mrs. Larson used to live, and there I turn off the pavement onto the gravel road, past the cornfield that once was High Prairie High School and, four miles down the road, past Swede Plain Church.

Cruising slowly by the farm for a last look, I see that the old barn seems ready to collapse. Still, it's beautiful, the whole place is. Maybe I'll get back for oyster stew on Christmas Eve. ■

AS IN 1910 - LET IT BE IN 1974

A Polk Spirit - From Polk Progress - March 31, 1910
Written by Progress Editor, Richard Allen

Do we, the Citizens of Polk, possess anything which might be consistently designated as the Polk spirit? If so, what are some of the channels through which this spirit should manifest itself?

With reference to the growth and development of cities the records show that the first men who inhabit a town invoke and establish a spirit - business regime - an unwritten code of morals and business principles which wield their influence over the destinies of any given city. If this is true, and it has been proven to be true, it brings up to Polk people interesting and pertinent questions.

Polk has been fortunate in the personnel of its so-called leading citizens - the men who have been instrumental in the preliminary steps of establishing and cleaning the town. A clean and clear cut business acumen has prevailed in the launching of every early project and institution in Polk. A few men of wealth and prestige have invested money, liberally and yet consistently in Polk real estate and made substantial improvements adequate to our business demands.

But the future of the town rests with its inhabitants. Now is the time for the town spirit to crystalize and manifest itself. Shall it be a medley or a "confusion of tongues" - a case of cross purposes. Or shall our people unite in a series of acts both great and small, that will give to the town a code of conduct that will make this a pleasant place to live?

As we study this problem - the intangible thing of a Polk spirit, let each one reflect what he or she might do to made Polk an attractive residence town. We believe there is no one in Polk but can add something to the formation of a Polk spirit.

The school children can learn their lessons well, get good markings in studies and deportment and try to establish for our schools a high reputation for efficiency.

The churches should try to make their meetings instructive, elevating, attractive and spiritually beneficial. And the people should be responsive, receptive, and assisting in maintaining our religious institutions.

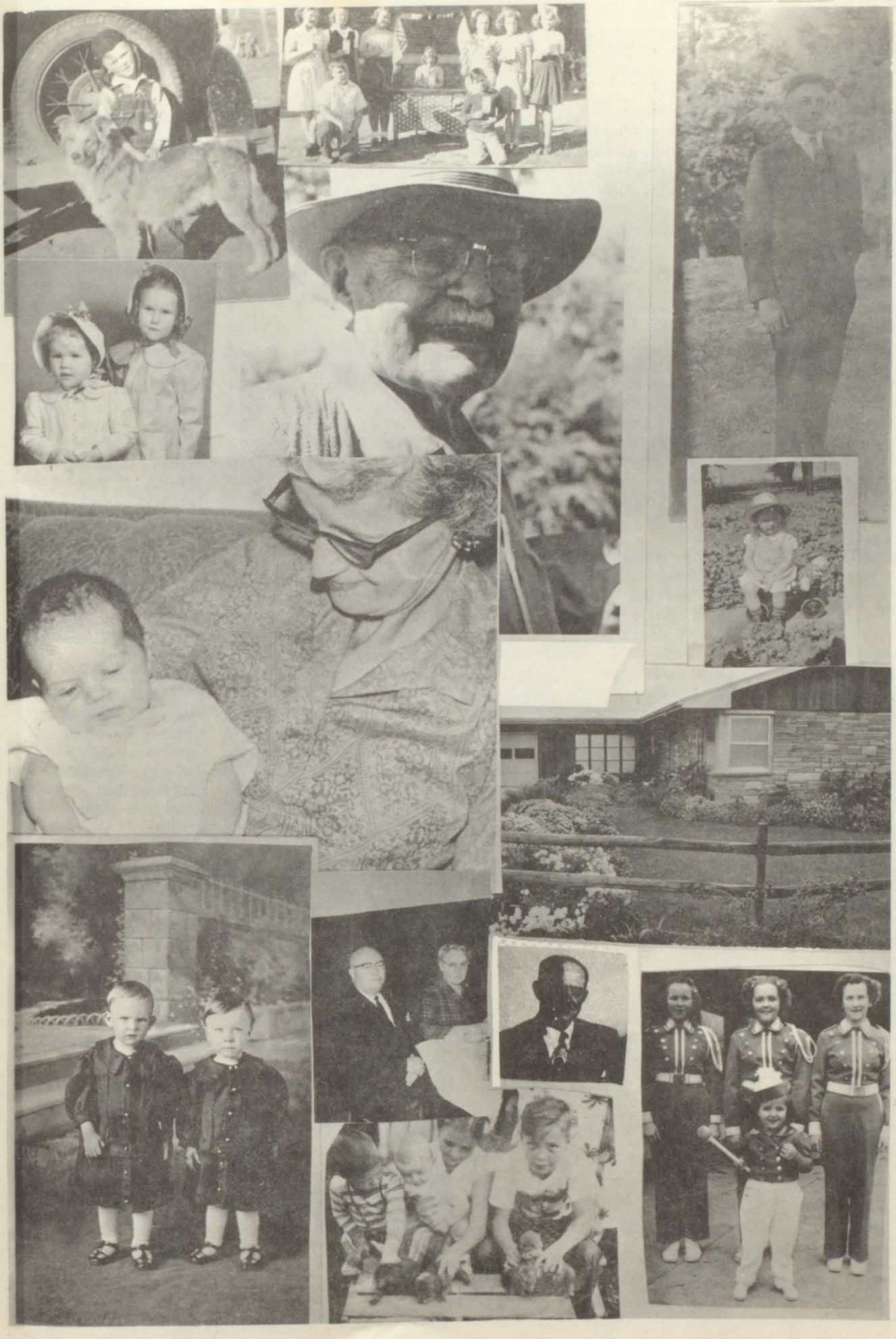
It would seem each property owner should build pro-rata of good and complete sidewalk system.

Maintain sanitary conditions, keep alleys, yards and corrals clean. Horses, cattle, poultry and hogs moved, etc.

No town board can compel the citizens of the town to manifest its intangible town spirit. It must come from an intelligent recognition of our mutual interests. It must not be a short sighted, personal gain policy. It must pertain to morals, manners and public spirit. We must regard ourselves as a community of common interests, looking to and building for the future, if we are to possess and exhibit to others the Polk spirit.

Let us all contribute to the Polk spirit. Let's try to color our individual enterprises, our social, religious, fraternal orders with one general tint of progressiveness. If we do, we will soon develop the Polk spirit.

HURRY — HURRY
TO POLK MOTOR Co
FOR AUTO REPAIRS



1000th Baby born at Osceola Hospital.

INDEX

	Page
Admirals in NE Navy	48
Aksarben Awards	54
Bean Day & Pictures	122-125
BUSINESSES (Present)	7-14
Auctioneers	7
Barber Shops	7
Beauty Shops	7
Bank-Citizens State	7
Dicks Service	8
Doctors	8
Elevators-Farmers	8
Elevators-Polk Grain	9
Fire Dep't.	8
Farmers Coop Oil Inc.	9
Food Shop	9
Hills Sand & Gravel	9
Hiway Cafe	9
Johnson Garage	10
KS-NE Gas Co.	10
Holiday Laundry	10
Norton Law Office	10
Polk Library	10
Polk Electric Shop	11
Polk Farm Supply	11
Polk Machine & Supply	11
Polk's IGA Store	11
Polk Oil Co.	11
Polk Post Office	11
Polk Progress	12
Redman Plumbing	12
Rescue Unit	12
Shaw's Repair	13
Snack Shack	13
Recreation Parlors	13
Water & Light Supply	13
Sundberg & Son	13
Wall Funeral Home	13
Wilson Seed Farm	14
Veterinarians	14
PAST BUSINESSES	
Bakeries	126
Blacksmith	126
This N That	126
Banks	126
Carpenters	126
Ceramic Shop	127
Cream & Produce	127
Dentists	127
Drays	127
Druggists	128
Dry Cleaners	128
Dry Goods Stores	128
Flour Mill	128
Furniture Store	128
Garages	128
Gen'l Mdse.	129
Grocery Stores	129
Hatchery	130
Ice Plant	130
Implement Places	130
Hotels-Cafes	130
Polk Industries	130
Jewelry Stores	130
Livery Barns	131
Lumberyards	131
Masonry	131
Meat Market	132
Milk Routes	132
Millinery	132
Music Store	132
Painters	132
Photography	133
Recreation	133
Realtors	133
Shoe Repair	133
Stockyards	133
Telephone	133
Depot	134
Variety Store	134
CEMETERIES	151
Arborville	151
Immanuel Lutheran	151
Laclede	151
Lindale	151
Pleasant Home	151
Polk	151
Swede Plain	152
CHURCHES OF POLK & AREA	24-28
Arborville	24
Baptist	24
Evangelical Church	25
Evangelical Camp	25
Free Methodist	25
Trinity	26
United Methodist	26
Swede Plain	27
Immanuel Lutheran	28
4-H CLUBS	19-20
Busy Bees	19
Odd 'N Ends	19
Merry Makers	19
Bizzy Bees	20
Pl. Home Farmers	20
Boxer Beef	20
Pl. Homemakers	20
Did You Knows	35-40
FIVE GENERATIONS	55
Clifford Branting	55
Ray Sealey	55
Anna Wurtz	55
FAMILY ALBUM	
Adelson, Andrew, Etc.	70
Adelson, Alex	70
Adelson, Frank	71
Adelson, John	71
Aker, Parker	71
Alfred, Olof F	71
Anderson, Irvin	72
Anderson, Alfred	72
Anderson, John H.	72
Anderson, Forrest	73
Bedient, Fred, Sr.	73
Benjamin, Albert	73
Bragg, Meade	73
Benson, S.P.	73
Blender, Wm. Sr.	73
Benford, Walter	74
Branting, Clifford	74
Burgess, Clayton	74
Burney, Dwight	74
Carlson, Andy	75
Carlstrom, Carl	75
Carlson, Harold	75
Carlson, S. Alfred	75
Cohagen, Acquilla	75
Coover, Ed	75
Crow, A.K.	76
Dahlin, Alvin	76
Dahlin, Oscar	76
Doremus, Neil	76
Dorsey, John L.	77
Ehn, Joe	77
Flodman, Ernest	77
Flodman, Carl Ulric	78
Flodman, Hartwig	78
Fossberg, Frank	79
Fredrickson, Marvin	79
Garretson, Frank M.	79
Garretson, Roy	79
Glad, A.G.	80
Glasser, Robert S.	80
Green, James	80
Green, Wm. E.	80
Gustafson, Alfred	80
Gustafson, Frank	81
Gustafson, Oscar	81
Hahn, Freeman	81
Hahn, E.W.	81
Hanquist, Andrew	81
Hanquist, Donald	82
Hanquist, P.A.	82
Hanquist, Wm. H.	82
Harless, Jacob	82
Hill, G.M.	82
Hill, Wayne	83
Hill, C. Glenn	83
Honess, James	84
Horn, F.L.	84
Jerner, C.A.	84
Johnson, Andrew	84
Johnson, Charles O.	84
Johnson, John A.	84
Johnson, Wm. E.	85
Jones, Axel C.	85
M. Kealiher	85
Kisler, Will	86
Knerr, F.	86
Kroger, Will	86
Lampshire, G.	86
Larson, C.&E.	87
Lind, Albert	87
Lind, Amel	87
Lind, Henry	87
Lind, John	87
Lind, John	88
Lindburg, Will	88
Lindquist, Eric	88
McClure, Joseph	88
McConnell, Dick	89
McCune, Calmar	89
Miller, Wm. P.	89
Mills, D.N.	89
Myers, John	89
Myers, Z.F.	89
Naslund, Olof	90
Nelson, August	90
Nelson, J.P.	90
Nelson, J.W.	90
Nelson, Robert	90
Nelson, Walter	90
Nelson, Theo	90
Newton, Willard	90
Norton, J.N.	91
Nyberg, Nels	91
Peterson, Alfred	91
Peterson, Enoch	92
Peterson, Frank	92
Peterson, Jonas	92
Putman, Horace	92
Ramage, Grant	93
Reeb, Geo-Henry	93
Rodine, C.O.	93
Rodgers, John J.	94
Sandberg, August	94
Sandell, Wallace	94
Sandell, Henry	94
Sealey, James T	94
Sealey, Ray	94
Shostrom, Andrew	95
Shostrom, Ira	95
Shostrom, Peter	95
Slusser, Frank	95
Steelquist, August	95
Stevens, Arlo	96
Stevens, Clyde	96
Stevens, Paul	96
Stevens, Theo	96
Stevens, Jamier	97
Stevens, J. Ed	97
Stevens, Wm.	97
Stohl, John	98
Stouffer, Roy	98
Strand, Oscar	98
Strand, Paul	98
Stromberg, Albert	98

Page

Stromberg, Chas 98
Stromberg, Lloyd 99
Stromberg, Oscar 99
Stromberg, Rolland 99
Stunkel, Wm. 99
Sundberg, David 99
Sundberg, Andrew 100
Sundberg, Henry 100
Sundberg, Oscar 100
Thesing, Richard 100
Tinker, G.W. 100
Talbot, A.O. 100
Widga, Adel 100
Widga, Charles 101
Widga, Lloyd 101
Widga, Peter 101
Willits, Clair 101
Willits, Horace 101
Willits, Grant 102
Wilson, John 103

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES 65-69
(Listed by years Married)

Oscar Johnson 65
Delbert Morris 65
Martin Baack 65
Estor Lackey 66
Al Shocky 66
Raymond Sundberg 66
Richard Johnson 66
Willard Lindburg 66
Rudolph Gustafson 67
M.G. Lindburg 67
Norris Anderson 67
Roy Glasser, Sr. 67
Martin Hoffman 67
Ilof Ostberg 68
Ralph Kahler 68
Oscar Anderson 68
Urban Spoor 68
Orlie Miller 68
Hugo Person 69

Page

Rueben Hanquist 69

History of Polk 104

Mayors 107

Memories of Polk 158

ORGANIZATIONS 15-21

Am. Legion Post 15
Am. Legion Aux. 15
Boy Scouts - Cub Scouts 15
Campfire Girls 15
Country Woman'sClub 15
Faithful Workers Club 16
Home Society Club 16
IOOF Lodge 16
Modern Millies 17
Polk Community Club 17
Polk Garden Club 17
Polk Woman's Club 17
Rebekah Lodge 17
Route #66 Horse Club 18
Eastern Star 18
WCTU 18
Polk Masonic Lodge 21

PERSONALITY SKETCHES 56-59

Judith Adelson 56
Judy Adelson 56
Nell Aker 56
Mrs. Dethloff 57
M. & E Larson 57
Wilbur Drown 57
Aaron Dover 57
P.J. Garten 57
Mrs. H. Horstman 58
Wayne Hill 58
Mrs. J.E. McDaniel 58
Mrs. John Myers 58
August F. Nelson 58
Oscar Strand 59

Page

Mrs. R. Stromberg 59
Oscar Sundberg 59
Phillip Sack 59

PIONEER MEMORIES 108-122

Ruth Aker 108
Orrin Alfred 108-9
Mildred Anderson 110
Ruth Bragg 110
Verbena Wurtz 110&121
Neva Bright 111
Grayce Burney 111
Nettie Carlson 112
Mrs. I.S. Cooper 112
Mrs. Ernest Flodman 112
Hazel Hill 112
Wm McGaffin 113
Fern Myers 114
Sylvia Sandell 114
Wm. Stevens 115-116
John Smith 117
Mrs. R.L. Smith 117
Robert Stevens 117-119
Robert Stromberg 120
Mrs. Vern Walden 121
Stevens Children 121
Meet John Kennedy 162
Trip to Ozarks 162

Polk 1974 3

Polk at age Three 126

Polk Spirit 165

Potpourri 158

POEMS

Olof A. Alfred 71, 152
M.F. Smith 40, 69, 107, 122, 103
Donald Upton 79
Grant Willits 102

Page

PROFITABLE HOBBIES 53, 59

Mrs. C. Rehrs 59
Mrs. B. Baack 53
Mrs. G. Lampshire 53
Mrs. C.J. McCoy 53
Mrs. H.P. Tewell 53
Ronald Tewell 53
Mrs. Lyle Widga 53
Mrs. Don Widga 53
Irving Wize 53
Willits Craft 53
Viola Zieglebien 53

SALUTE TO YOUTH 42-47

Girls State 43
Boys State 43
Softball Team 42
Twenty Outstanding Youth 42-44

School 30-33

Service Roll 156-157

Slogan Contest 6

Soddies 159

THEY SERVED 48-49

Nat'l. Recognition 48
State Recognition 48
County Recognition 49
District 48

TIP OF THE HAT 41

Oscar Johnson, Oldest 41
Evelyn Lincoln 41
Dwight Burney 41

Tragedies 157

Traveled Overseas 54

Why I Like Polk 4-5